FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 022 3 February 1986

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

ACDA Report 'Latest Stage' In U.S. Propaganda AA 1
Weinberger Remarks in Detroit Speech Criticized AA 2
Shuttle Delays Regretted [Dunayev] AA 2
Accelerated Deployment Called For [Bogachev] AA 2
'Irresponsible Opinions' [Gan in PRAVDA 1 Feb] AA 3
SDI To Lead to 'Destabilization' of World Situation [Bogachev] AA 3
U.S. Resorts to Delaying Tactics on Arms Proposal [Zorin] AA 4
Settlement of European Disarmament Issues Possible [Gerasimov] AA 5
SDI 'Undermining' Strategic Stability, Security [Semeyko in IZVESTIYA 30 Jan] AA 7
U.S. Answer to Soviet Initiatives Awaited by All [Vasilyev in PRAVDA 28 Jan] AA 10
Problems of Nuclear Verification Examined [Katin in SELSKAYA ZHIZN 23 Jan] AA 12
Medium-Range Nuclear Weapons Discussed in Geneva AA 14

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' [Kolchanov, Lebedev, Zholkver] CC 1
Kapitsa Endorsed as Soviet UNESCO Chairman CC 8
Sudan Asks UN To Examine Southern Africa 'Tension' CC 8
Briefs: Statement Circulates at UN CC 8

UNITED STATES & CANADA

More Reports, Commentary on Shuttle Explosion A 1
Possibility of Toxic Fragments A 1
Administration Plans 'Brainwash' Campaign A 1
Reagan Eulogy Noted A 1
Venus Craters Named After Astronauts A 2
Pentagon 'Concerned' Over Shuttle A 2
Fuel Booster 'Crack' Suspected A 2
Tragedy Linked to SDI [Fesunenko] A 3
Disaster Prompts Reagan Remarks A 4
Tragedy Causes Doubts [Vasilyev in PRAVDA 1 Feb] A 5
Explosion Hurts SDI [Pogodin] A 6
U.S. Technology Questioned [Gerasimov] A 7

Medvid Claims 'Incarceration' At U.S. Naval Base A 8
Further Reports on U.S.-Libyan Tensions A 9
Whitehead Admits Failure A 9
'Military Force' Possible A 9
[Shalnev]
U.S. To Send Carriers A 10
Stepped-up Security Noted A 10
[IZVESTIYA 31 Jan]
U.S. Conducts 'War Dance' A 11
[Gerasimov]
More Reports on UNITA Leader's Washington Visit A 12
Reagan Receives 'Terrorist' A 12
Increased Sabotage Expected A 13
[Kulik]
Bush Speech Outlines U.S. 'State Terrorism' A 14
Reagan Decree on First Round Spending Cuts Noted A 14
U.S. Plans To Increase Defense Allocations A 15
Military Spending Crushes Social Programs A 15
[Ablamov]
Operation 'Red Flag' Targeted Against USSR A 16
Anti-Sovietism in U.S. Congress Scored A 17
[Koryavin in IZVESTIYA 29 Jan]

CHINA

Chinese Shelling of SRV Areas Reported B 1
[PRAVDA 2 Feb]
Growth of Private Enterprise in PRC Noted B 1
Supsov Chairman Tolkunov Receives PRC Journalist B 1

SOUTH ASIA

Indian Rally, Officials Praise Gorbachev Proposal D 1
[Latyshev]
PRAVDA Reports on Kuznetsov Tour in India D 2
[30 Jan]
PRAVDA on Socioeconomic Successes in Afghanistan D 3
[Yakubov, 27 Jan]

EASTERN EUROPE

Sokolov Receives GDR Deputy Defense Minister F 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Feb]
Scientific Cooperation Talks Held With Bulgaria F 1
Marchuk, Lukanov Sign Agreement [PRAVDA 24 Jan] F 1
Antonov, Lukanov Meet [PRAVDA 24 Jan] F 1
Bulgaria Establishes New Councils, Ministries F 2
[IZVESTIYA 29 Jan]
PRAVDA Reports Trade Agreements With Yugoslavia F 2
[31 Jan]
Hungarian Defense Minister To Visit Soviet Union F 2
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Feb]

WESTERN EUROPE

French Economic Minister Beregovoy Visits Moscow G 1
Aristov Receives Beregovoy G 1
Received by Shevardnadze, Arkhipov G 1
AFP on Talks With Shevardnadze G 1
Commentary Views France, UK Weapons Modernization [Sayenko] G 2
French Communist Party Leader Marchais Quoted G 3
CPSU Greets Irish Communist Party Congress [PRAVDA 31 Jan] G 3
Envoy Explains Gorbachev Proposals in Belgium G 4
Stukalin New Envoy to Greece; Andropov Transferred G 4

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Korniyenko-Led Delegation Arrives in Tehran [IRNA] H 1
Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Travels to YAR H 1
Maltsev Arrives for Visit [Sanaa] H 1
Departure Statement [Sanaa H 2
Soviet, YAR Accord Confirms Successful Cooperation H 2
Al-'Attas Praises Soviet-PDRY Relations [Syomin] H 3
Briefs: Scientific Cooperation With Syria H 3

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Fighting Erupts in Haiti; Conflicting Reports Sent K 1
Collapse of Regime Reported K 1
'Contradictory' Reports on Situation K 1
Situation Remains 'Very Tense' K 1
U.S. 'Puppets' Rebel K 1
Security Forces Lack Control K 2
U.S. Plans To Invade Haiti K 2
'Alternative' to Duvalier Prepared [Cherepanov in IZVESTIYA 2 Feb] K 3
'Serious Blow' to U.S. Policy [Chirgir] K 4
Soviet Delegation Travels to Cuba for Congress K 5
Solomentsev Sends Off Delegation K 5
Delegation Arrives in Cuba K 5

ACDA REPORT 'LATEST STAGE' IN U.S. PROPAGANDA

LD021251 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1110 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, 2 Feb (TASS) -- The White House has announced that President Reagan has sent the regular annual Arms Control and Disarmament Agency report to Congress.

The report itself has not been put out yet. Although, to judge by the accompanying letters of the President to congressmen and leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate, which have been published, this document is in fact an ode praising the United States for their ostensible "full adherence" to their pledges in the field of arms control and at the same time -- a list of accusation in respect to other countries, including the Soviet Union.

One notices the fact that precisely the part of the report which contains the absurd "accusations," is strictly classified. This very fact alone shows that the United States has no facts at its disposal, because there can be none. On the contrary, it is known that in the course of various hearings in Congress, a number of quite influential experts declared that the Soviet Union adhered to her treaty obligations in the field of arms control. The same has been admitted by U.S. representatives at sittings of the Soviet-American Standing Consultative Commission, which was established to monitor accords concluded by the sides. It is not the United States, but the Soviet Union, which has every reason to pose the question of adherence by the U.S. side to its obligations.

In his letter to Congress, Reagan asserts that he takes the obligations adopted by the United States as a result of the talks between the Soviet minister of foreign affairs and the U.S. secretary of state in January, 1985, in Geneva, "very seriously."

At that time the sides agreed they would strive to end the arms race on earth and prevent one in space. Now, however, by sending this report to Congress, the President is in fact placing his "Strategic Defense Initiative," which threatens to extend the arms race into space, outside the framework of the accord. Moreover, in direct violation of the indefinite Soviet-U.S. treaty on the limitation of antimissile defense systems Washington has announced its program to create antimissile defense territories in the United States and its NATO allies; the program will include prohibited elements to be based in space.

Not having ratified the SALT II treaty, the United States, however, gave the assurance that it intended to adhere to its clauses. Nevertheless, in violation of the provisions of this important document the United States has begun production of long-range cruise missiles to based on land and at sea and has begun their mass deployment. The siting [razmeshcheniye] then of the new ballistic missiles in Western Europe is an open violation of Clause 12 of the SALT II treaty. It remains to be added that the United States stubbornly refuses to ratify the treaties on underground nuclear explosions of 1974-1976 and has violated them more than once.

The appearance of the presidential report is seen by observers as the latest stage in a propaganda campaign, which is supposed to draw the attention of the U.S. and international public away from the U.S. violations of its treaty obligations.

WEINBERGER REMARKS IN DETROIT SPEECH CRITICIZED

Shuttle Delays Regretted

LD312036 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Correspondent Vladimir Dunayev dispatch from Washington]

[Text] Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger surprised Americans today. In the very hours when the country is preparing to bid farewell to the astronauts who died tragically, Weinberger found it possible to make a speech in which the only regret he expressed was that there would now be some delay in fresh launches of space shuttle craft. The delay will not be for just a day, the Pentagon chief said, and this means it will have a serious effect on our plans and programs, the Pentagon's plans and programs, and especially on preparations for SDI, as the invitation [as heard] to "star wars" is called in Washington. Even on the day of mourning Weinberger could not keep himself from speaking on his favorite theme, openly admitting that the space shuttle that suffered disaster worked mainly for "star wars." And the Pentagon chief called detente a childish illusion. I am quoting a speech by Weinberger made in the Economic Club of Detroit: The text of the speech has just been distributed by the Pentagon.

Weinberger can hardly be expressing the feelings of disappointed and dispirited Americans, whom they have tried to convince that flights of shuttle craft are outings without danger to which both teachers and journalists can be invited. In the opinion of well-known observer, Mary McGrory, the consequences of the tragedy are unpleasant, and not only as concerns the space program, as she writes in THE WASHINGTON POST. The President must admit that his "star wars" require ideal, super-reliable technology. The whole program rests on the assumption that millions of systems and mechanisms have to work to a computer's command faultlessly and in synchronism with extraordinary precision, to thousandths of a second. This assumption has now proved to be highly questionable following the spacecraft's disaster.

And today it is especially appropriate to ask the President, McGrory writes, can the solution to earth's problems not be found on the ground, and not in space?

Accelerated Deployment Called For

LD311958 Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 31 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

At the time when American scientists engaged in "star wars" research programmes increasingly arrive at the conclusion that various aspects of the U.S. universal space-based defence are technically unattainable and warn about the possibility of losing control over the strike arms in near-terrestrial space, their employers from the Pentagon continue their noisy propaganda campaign about the mythical successes of the "Strategic Defense Initiative".

Addressing on Thursday members of the Economic Club of Detroit the United States Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger contended that the programme of implementing the SDI is making "dramatic progress" and voiced the opinion that not "star wars" plans but hopes of Americans for a relaxation of international tension could become the main obstacle on the road to a "safer and more stable world".

The head of the Pentagon said that the disaster of the Challenger spaceship could slow down work to create space strike weapons. It follows from Weinberger's speech that the United States intends again to hold tests of the "Minuteman" and "Titan" ICBM to give them the capability of anti-missiles, this being a flagrant voiolation of the 1972 Soviet-American ABM Treaty.

The calls by the United States secretary of defense to speed up the deployment of American nuclear arms on earth, to continue the course that might prove to be irretrievably costly to the whole of mankind.

'Irresponsible Opinions'

PM311702 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 86 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch: "Back-To-Front Logic"]

[Text] Washington, 31 Jan -- U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger has made a speech in Detroit which without exaggeration could be called a policy statement of the U.S. militarists, who are trying to justify the utmost fueling to the arms race, global expansionism, and diktat.

Arbitrarily distorting the real state of affairs, Weinberger advanced along the well-trodden path of accusing the Soviet Union of various "machinations," a "never-ending build-up of military potential," and attempts to "subjugate the world" and of course "seize America," which -- of course! -- before the advent of the present administration was unilaterally disarming.

What methods does the Pentagon chief propose? The traditional methods: "Whoever has followed the Soviet Union in the last few years will understand that the present state of our relations with Moscow... depends on our ability to continue to act from a position of strength. This is a fact of life. It is the result of what we have learned since World War II, that is that the West's security and peace throughout the world depends absolutely on U.S. military might." Back-to-front logic, and what else is there to say.

...Thus, black is passed off as white to Americans. Thus, with the authority of a responsible post being used as a cover, attempts are being made to hammer home to them irresponsible opinions.

SDI TO LEAD TO 'DESTABILIZATION' OF WORLD SITUATION

LD020307 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 1 Feb 86

[TASS military affairs observer Vladimir Bogachev commentary]

[Text] According to recommendations of specialists working for the Pentagon, the American "star wars" program should provide for the siting in space of several thousand units of strike weapons, deployed in seven tiers, mostly over the territory of the socialist countries. The system covers the use of a vast number of computers which must ensure a transition from a manual system of guiding combat operations to a fully automatic one. Computers can replace people in deciding on a nuclear war. And it is getting increasingly more obvious even if stationed on the ground, computers do not ensure 100 percent reliability of their decisions or correctness of their conclusions and estimates. Computer errors which, even in peacetime, lead to sorry consequences, can bring off a world wide disaster in a critical international situation.

Scientists note that the combat guidance computers for the "star wars" plan may activate systems of American strike weapons in space in response to signals that have nothing to do with a nuclear missile attack; for example, signals due to small disturbances of the environment or even without them at all. The putting of the ABM systems on combat alert as a result of such signals can be regarded by the other side as preparation for a first strike, with all the ensuing consequences. The newspaper WASHINGTON POST recently quoted a scientist hired by the Pentagon concerning computers for "star wars" as saying that the computers were doing strange things one could not possibly visualize. At times they did one thing and, at other times, something else.

Pentagon specialists are now developing an expert ABM computer system. This man-made intellect system contains in its program, among other things, estimates of the military political situation for decision making about the start of war. This American project is a product of the psychology and mentality of those United States leaders who are known to have, to the greatest extent, an unobjective, distorted view of the Soviet Union's intentions and the greatest readiness to use arms of mass annihilation in conflict situations. One can well picture the consequences for our planet that can be brought by "star wars" computer programs based, say, on estimates by White House consultants Edward Teller or Colin Gray, with the latter holding the belief that victory is possible for the United States in a nuclear war.

United States Administration officials are trying to convince the Americans that some sort of miracle will happen with the realization of the "star wars" program, a miracle that will do away in one go with all the highly dangerous technical defects of American strike space weapons and of the electronic system for their guidance. These hopes are extremely illusory. On the other hand, it is quite apparent that continued work in the United States under the "star wars" program may lead only to a sharp destabilization of the military political situation in the world. The risk of nuclear war will be rising, including the risk due to errors in estimating the situation because of malfunctions in the warning systems and computers.

U.S. RESORTS TO DELAYING TACTICS ON ARMS PROPOSAL

LD011822 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Soviet television political observer Valentin Zorin commentary; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Much may be said about the various nuances in Washington's reaction to the Soviet initiatives, but the main thing, the crux of the matter, lies in the fact that there has not yet been a genuine, formal reaction or any specific response to the absolutely specific proposals set forth in the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. And this is so despite the fact that we are already in the 3d week since these truly historic proposals were promulgated.

As is known, the White House's very first reaction was positive. The importance and the constructive, even innovatory nature of Comrade Gorbachev's statement was noted. True, this was done only in a very general sense, without anything really specific being said. But the very fact that this time in Washington they had departed from the practice of unpleasant memory of rejecting Soviet proposals outright without bothering to read or study them was assessed as a positive factor.

But there then followed a series of very confusing and contradictory statements by various high-ranking figures in the Washington administration, which basically amounted to belittling and distorting the Soviet proposals, which meant creating a propaganda smokescreen around them and reducing the great impression that they had made on the world, as well as on the U.S. public.

However, no official or -- and this is the main thing -- substantial reply has been given, and still has not been given to this day.

It stands to reason that the whole complex of the Soviet proposals -- whose crux is the specific program for the complete liquidation of nuclear weapons throughout the world over the next 15 years and the prevention of the militarization of outer space, a program which is calculated for a precise and definite period of time -- requires attentive and businesslike examination.

But close study is one thing and obvious dragging out of time is something else. The Washington administration has a sufficient number of qualified specialists who do not need whole weeks to work out the essence of the Soviet proposals. In connection with this some observers are saying that the opponents of a Soviet-U.S. accord, having not dared to give a blunt no to the steps proposed by the Soviet Union in the face of world public opinion, have decided to resort to delaying tactics and a reluctance to give direct answers. The poignancy of the impression made by the Soviet initiatives will, they are saying, become dulled with time and the whole thing will probably grind to a halt. Well, if that sort of thinking really does exitst, then it is naive, to say the least. Mikhail Seregeyevich's statement raises such problems of world importance and opens up such prospects for resolving them that life itself will not permit the avoidance of a reply to them.

The whole world expects from Washington not petty cunning nor political maneuvering, but a constructive response corresponding to the scope and the level of the problems that are being faced.

SETTLEMENT OF EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT ISSUES POSSIBLE

LD022032 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Feb 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by APN political observer Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Excerpts] Goods are purchased when the demand for them arises. Advertising and fairs are intended to stimulate demand which objectively need not exist. For instance, people have no objective, biological need to smoke and drink. People smoke and drink to satisfy falsely acquired needs. The same goes for weapons. Canada and even the United States have no objective need for powerful weapons: No one is preparing to attack them. But they have to trade in arms. True. there is a depraved need to use weapons for imperialist policy. But this reason -- the real one -- is concealed and a false reason is spoken aloud -- the Soviet threat. They are always saying it. Now more than ever before, however, Western reason has grounds to doubt this. The thesis about the Soviet Union is currently hard to defend: A country which is putting forward a concrete plan for nuclear and other forms of disarmament cannot remain a threat. Washington itself promised to make a serious study of the Soviet initiatives. This study, however, is being delayed. And Senator William Proxmire considers the continuing official silence -- as he described it -- as shocking evidence of weakness. On the other hand, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has just described relaxation of tension as a childish hope.

Thus, time passes in polemics, although observer James Reston writes that the way President Reagan deals with the Soviet proposals may be, according to Reston, a major decision in his presidency. All the same, it is reported that the letter which the White House is preparing to send to the Kremlin will lay emphasis on the medium-range missiles in Europe. The President will allegedly declare in the letter that the Russians should discuss their proposals with Britain and France so that these two countries promise not to increase their forces within the framework of the medium-range missile treaty.

Well, the European side of the Soviet plan can be dealt with without delay -- without dragging the matter out and hampering it with other problems. If it were possible to eliminate the Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles on the European Continent one of the difficult knots in world politics would be united. It is suggested only that the reasonable Soviet desires should be taken into account, that the United States should not hand their medium-range missiles on to their allies, and that Britain and France should not increase their own nuclear weapons.

Western Europe has the opportunity of putting in its own word. Do they want U.S. missiles here, in their own home? Europe is our common home and conditions have now arisen here for the estrangement between East and West to be overcome. Nothing is demanded of Britain and France that they would not themselves declare. Formally, their nuclear forces accord with the principle of minimal restraint. From the point of view of this principle they now have enough of these forces and there is no necessity to augment them. That would go directly against the moods and hopes which gripped Europe following the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Geneva and following Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement.

These moods and hopes can be felt both in Geneva and Vienna, and Stockholm, also. An international conference of nongovernmental organizations, Together for Peace, has been held in Geneva, incidentally, which addressed a call to all people to undertake joint efforts to see that mankind enters the next century in peace.

The latest round of negotiations on the mutual reduction of armed forces and weapons in central Europe has opened in Vienna and it opened on an optimistic note.

In Stockholm the latest session of the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and disarmament in Europe has also opened on an optimistic note. This is the ninth session already and, perhaps, the first with such great hopes for success. In the final stage of the eighth session, there was positive mention of the influence of the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Geneva and at the beginning of the ninth session Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement had a beneficial effect.

Dumas, French minister of external relations, spoke at the first session. He described the Soviet iniatives as a step in the right direction. But what about the direction of French steps? Paris is for the time being not ready for concrete talks and sets out the conditions for taking part in talks. One is a substantial cut in Soviet and U.S. nuclear arsenals. But the Soviet Union is in favor of such a cut; it is also in favor of the total liquidation of these arsenals. The other French condition is the renunciation of creating [sozdaniye] destabilizing antimissle defense systems. The Soviet Union is also in favor of such a renunciation; it also sees in these an obstacle which should not be created. France is also in favor of chemical disarmament. Finally, France is against a lack of equilibrium in conventional weapons in Europe. But the Soviet Union also has no need for such a lack of equilibrium: our proposals take the interests of the security of all in account.

On Friday, a reply to Mikhail Serbeyevich Gorbachev's appeal was received from French President Francois Mitterrand. President Reagan is still writing.

FRG Foreign Affairs Minister Genscher also spoke at Stockholm. He also found good words to say about the Soviet initiatives and promised to draw up constructive responses to constructive elements.

So, negotiations are underway in Stockholm, Geneva, and Vienna: Mankind lives in hope.

SDI 'UNDERMINING' STRATEGIC STABILITY, SECURITY

PM311139 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Part two of article by L. Semeyko: "A Course Aimed at Destabilization" under rubric "What is SDI?"]

[Text] What effect would realization of the "Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) have on strategic stability? This is essentially the central question. Preserving strategic stability is an essential condition for preserving peace in the nuclear age. And that is why it must be strengthened in every way possible. Any shaking of its foundations will make peace far more fragile.

The U.S. Administration tries to convince everyone that the concept of "star wars" is a "great blessing" in the matter of ensuring strategic stability. An antimissile shield in space will remove forever, they say, the desire to launch nuclear missiles. Peace will no longer rest on the threat of nuclear destruction and will consequently become more reliable and secure.

Well, it would be fine if everything went precisely like this. But in actual fact the situation appears far more complex. The celestial mirage of "still firmer" strategic stability evaporates on close examination of this issue. It is no accident, we must suppose, that the authors of the rather voluminous Pentagon report to Congress on SDI (1985) preferred to avoid analysis of the question of mutual connections between SDI and stability. But the nature of these mutual connections is such that it is arousing growing alarm everywhere.

First. Perhaps it would be possible to begin with a pronouncement made by U.S. Secretary of Defense C. Weinberger: A Soviet antimissile defense, if it is created, "will create the necessity to increase our (U.S.-L.S.) offensive forces and improve their capacity to overcome Soviet defense systems." In other words, the chief of the Pentagon directly admits an objective fact (this, incidentally, rarely happens with him): The creation of defense weapons will cause a buildup of offensive weapons in response. We also recognize this fact. We not only recognize it, but sound the alarm in advance: A qualitatively new arms race will be extremely dangerous in its consequences. It will inevitably destabilize the situation and increase the threat of the outbreak of war.

However, the leaders in Washington have a different approach. Simplified, it could be formulated as follows: If an ABM system is developed above the United States, the Soviet Union would do well to initiate a radical reduction in its strategic offensive potential, but if an ABM umbrella system is developed above the Soviet Union, the Americans should immediately increase their offensive arsenal. This, at least, is how Weinberger puts it. A very strange approach, to put it mildly, if one regards it from the standpoint of equality and justice, which U.S. leaders themselves urge. If one takes the official U.S. approach as a whole, it is based on the fact that a certain combination of reduced offensive weapons plus newly created strategic defense weapons and the "balance" between them must strengthen strategic stability.

But what kind of "balance" regulated in the U.S. way can be discussed if the measures taken by one side will inevitably lead to countermeasures by the other, followed by counter-countermeasures? There is an obvious lack of logic in the U.S. position. It is not accidental: The realization of SDI is a conscious course aimed at an uncontrolled increase, rather than a coordinated curbing of the arms race. The latter, as is well known, has never led to anything good. It is precisely the arms race that is capable of destabilizing the strategic situation to the greatest extent by introducing to it more and more new elements of tension, right up to the appearance of a most acute situation.

Second. SDI also runs counter to the idea of maintaining the existing strategic balance between the Soviet Union and the United States. The mechanism of this balance is complex and delicate. It not only directly concerns the sides' security interests, but also includes an account of a multitude of different indicators. For 15 years now, this balance has looked like an approximate equilibrium of strategic offensive potentials, even if the structure of these potentials and the potentials of the various offensive weapons are not at all identical. It is important that the military and technical problems of this balance have long since been "pigeonholed" and repeatedly analyzed by each side; now the difficult task is to substantially lower the level of this balance without upsetting it.

But realization of SDI would overturn all existing ideas on the balance of forces and even on the possibilities of reducing nuclear arms. The strategic balance would truly become strategic chaos. It would be extremely difficult to determine whether the balance was being maintained or not, because not only the offensive components of the balance would have to be taken into account, but also the defensive components -- no longer deployed on a limited scale, but on the broadest scale possible -- and, what is more, in their interaction with one another. An extremely unclear situation would arise. It is difficult to imagine all the dangerous consequences if one of the sides were ever to gain a vital edge in something. The Soviet Union has never aspired and will not aspire to this. The situation is more complex with the United States. On the one hand, it was stated at the Geneva meeting -- and this is a positive step -- that the U.S. side will also not aspire to gain military superiority. On the other hand, however, there are no signs of even a deceleration of the flywheel of Washington's gigantic military programs. In these conditions, with the realization of SDI not only even greater asymmetry in the makeup of the sides' strategic forces could arise -- which would make analysis of the correlation of forces extremely difficult -- but the threat of the strategic balance being violated as a whole would also become obvious. Such a violation -- real or even mistakenly taken as real (chaos is chaos) -- would automatically signify the undermining of strategic stability. And the undermining of stability is the undermining of general security.

Third. Assessment of the strategic situation would also become extremely vague. U.S. research, in particular, cites possible scenarios of the very process of obtaining these assessments. Side A, for example, could consider itself "better" covered by a space-based ABM umbrella and consequently, in a crisis situation, would not hesitate to press the nuclear button. Side B, on the other hand, fearing a first strike against its territory and knowing it has "worse" cover, would be given the incentive to carry out a preemptive strike. Side A, foreseeing such a course of strategic analysis by side B, would try to hasten its own first nuclear strike. It is clear that in this "race into nonexistence" precisely nothing remains of strategic stability. Nothing, U.S. analysts point out, would also remain of it if each side were to believe that it is covered "better" (or "worse").

Of course, this is an abstract military and political analysis with all its inevitable shortcomings. But even it may be used by the hotheads in Washington: The logic of "side A" would clearly be to their liking if one takes into account the slogan of military and technical superiority which has by no means been withdrawn in the United States and confirmation, even since Geneva, of the necessity to have only "strong positions."

Fourth. Realization of the "star wars" program engenders and would engender in the future destabilization at every stage of its implementation. Indeed, even now, at the so-called "research and development" stage, the problem of nuclear disarmament is being called into question. In order to unblock this problem, the door through which weapons could penetrate space must be tightly shut. Shut at the very earliest stage.

This would make it possible to keep the AMB Treaty in force, which prohibits (in Article V) the creation, testing, and deployment of sea-, air-, space-, or mobile land-based ABM systems or components.

This is a treaty of fundamental significance for the entire process of limiting and reducing strategic offensive weapons. Coordinated limitations on ABM systems are an inalienable part of Soviet-U.S. relations and negotiations as a whole. Washington's attempts to undermine the ABM Treaty with "harmless research" even today are having a negative effect on Soviet-U.S. relations and on the course of the Geneva talks. These attempts are laying the foundations for undermining strategic stability.

If we fail to place barriers in the way of the creation and testing of space-based strike weapons, the destabilization curve would suddenly shoot upwards at the next stage -- with the deployment of space-based strike weapons. In addition to the aforementioned factors, others would also have an effect. They include the appearance of the possibility of suddenly knocking out satellites providing early warning of a nuclear attack. Even, accidentally knocking out these (particularly these) or other satellites could be regarded as an act of war undertaken by the other side. There is more. The militarization of space using the latest scientific and technical achievements would lead to still greater automation of the process of adopting strategic decisions in a crisis situation. The question "to be or not to be" would ultimately be decided not by man, but by electronic machinery -- with all the extremely dangerous consequences of possible malfunctions in the functioning of extremely complex computer systems (it is calculated that just one control system for space-based ABM would have to process from 10 to 100 million units of information). From this standpoint we also cannot fail to perceive the main thing: SDI is really the prologue to the undermining of strategic stability.

Fifth. When examining the problem of strategic stability it is important not to forget that it must not be approached on a narrowly technical level, that is, from the standpoint of the effect upon it of various specific arms. It is not a matter of this or that missile or space-based strike weapon. The point is that Washington is beginning a qualitatively new round of the arms race, in both nuclear and space arms. It is beginning it in an attempt to level the close interconnection between them. This approach by the U.S. side is potentially dangerous for strategic stability. It is therefore all the more important to observe in practice the obligation reinforced in Geneva by the signature of the U.S. President, the obligation regarding the necessity of carrying out the tasks set out in the joint Soviet-U.S. statement of 8 January 1985. These tasks also include strengthening strategic stability. Achieving this is both possible and necessary. This depends to a decisive extent on whether we will succeed in preventing an arms race in space and halting the one on earth. This, in turn, depends on Washington's political will.

Strategic stability is a vital necessity. Essentially, it is a question of the decisive condition of maintaining security in the nuclear age -- both national and general. In the situation taking shape, concern over preserving and strengthening strategic stability must not be the domain of only two great powers -- the Soviet Union and the United States. It is a question of universal concern and universal responsibility. As indicated in the statement by M.S.Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee: "when it is a question of preserving peace and ridding mankind of the threat of nuclear war, there can be no bystanders and nonparticipants. This is a matter for each and every one. Here the contribution of each state -- large or small, socialist or capitalist -- is important. Here the contribution of every responsible political party, every social organization, and every individual is important."

U.S. ANSWER TO SOVIET INITIATIVES AWAITED BY ALL

PM271716 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 85 First Edition p 4

[Report by own correspondent G. Vasilyev: "What Will America's Response Be?]

[Text] New York, January -- Let us return to the first U.S. reaction to the new Soviet initiatives. It was almost unanimously positive. President Reagan said he was "very grateful for the proposal" and that the U.S. leadership was "studying it carefully." Secretary of State Shultz also gave, by and large, a positive assessment of the Soviet peace initiative. Although he did complain about the Soviet Union making it public, as if informing the world public could hinder progress toward reaching an accord between Washington and Moscow on the main disarmament problems. Only one representative of the Washington "big three," Defense Secretary Weinberger, tried to put an immediate damper on people's hopes of success. Work in the United States on the "Strategic Defense Initiative," that is, preparations for the deployment of space strike weapons, he said, will continue no matter what.

A CBS correspondent noted in a report from Moscow: "The new proposals put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev and his emphasis on improving Soviet-U.S. relations are an important part of the program the CPSU is taking to its congress." There were plenty of positive words in the U.S. press. It called the new Soviet proposals "breathtaking," "far-reaching," "detailed." The papers acknowledged that the Soviet proposals contain elements of compromise and take into account the positions of the United States and other countries, that they have given rise to a wave of hope throughout the world and the Reagan administration will find it hard to resist public pressure in its own country and in Western Europe if it does not respond to the Soviet Union with something constructive.

It was also placed on record that the USSR's new, far-reaching peace initiatives, according to the U.S. press, took official Washington by surprise.

But only a few days had passed when, as if some invisible conductor had waved his baton, the U.S. press and television began to wind up the discussion. Explaining the sudden "decline in interest" in the Soviet proposals, NEWSWEEK magazine writes that the administration's desire to "lower expectations" is begind it. Why should it need to do this? The popular weekly does not answer this question. But the answer is clear: The Soviet proposals have everywhere galvanized public movements advocating curbing the arms race, above all the nuclear arms race, and relaxing international tension. Pressure by these movements is becoming a real force which the politicians at the helm of government in the United States and in other Western countries cannot ignore.

As TIME magazine writes, deep in the U.S. Administration discussion has begun on the question of how to respond to the Soviet peace initiatives. "Obviously, the debate is going to be fierce," the magazine writes. "A deep split has long been apparent in the administration's ranks on arms control questions. And past U.S. proposals have come about only after prolonged and at times, heated exchanges."

What is stopping Washington from responding immediately and constructively to Moscow's peace initiatives with its own?

The other day Americans who know their history celebrated a significant date. On 17 January it was 25 years since President Eisenhower's farewell speech on leaving the White House, in which, for the first time, he used the term "military-industrial complex."

This man, who devoted nearly all his life to the army and therefore knew what he was talking about, said that there had occurred in the United States an amalgamation between the colossal military machine and the vast military industry whose "total influence -- political, economic, and even spiritual -- is felt in every city, in every state, and in every federal institution."

The jubilee did not pass unnoticed, THE WASHINGTON POST wrote that in 25 years the alliance of the Pentagonites, arms manufacturers, the scientists and engineers who are nourished by them, and reactionary members of Congress has become even wider and all-pervasive. The paper gave the following figures: One in twenty jobs in the United States is associated directly or indirectly with appropriations under the "defense expenditure" heading. Some 25 percent of all U.S. scientists and engineers serve the god of war. The Pentagon plans to spend more than $300 billion, $34 billion of it on scientific research and design work. The paper quoted Jerome Wiesner, former special science and technology assistant under Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson: "It is no longer a question of how to control the military-industrial complex, but how to prevent the United States from turning into a total military society."

The voice of this "unholy alliance," held together by the pursuit of profit and by its belligerent chauvinism, can be heard in the speeches of Caspar Weinberger, a loyal advocate of California's aerospace corporations. Of course, the Soviet peace program rankles generals and admirals trying to progress in the service, weapons manufacturers making their fortunes from fulfilling "defense programs," politicians on their anti-communist hobbyhorse, and all kinds of "Sovietologists" sowing seeds of hatred toward people who have chosen the path of socialism. The implementation of the program threatens them with considerable reductions in the income and privileges they have had recently. But it is not only the military-industrial complex as such which stands in the way of the implementation of the prospects opened up by Geneva for an improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations, an improvement in the international situation, and the quest for accords on limiting the arms race on earth and preventing one in space. The anticommunist confrontational habits and stereotypes of the U.S. Administration also work against it.

Let us not forget that 5 years ago the Reagan administration came to power under the slogan of a "new American Revolution" which on closer examination turned out to be a direct reflection of the most reactionary U.S. circles' assertive desire to turn the development of world history back to a favorable direction for U.S. imperialism. Right-wing Republicans proclaimed the achievement of military superiority as the lever for this. The rapid buildup of the Pentagon budget began and more and more military programs went into production. Attempts to pressure the socialist countries and to carry out interventionist interference in the affairs of "third World" peoples became the dominant features of Washington foreign policy. The heavy locomotive of the belligerent policy of confrontation gathered speed and momentum and it was not easy to slow it down. Particularly since Washington was in no hurry to do so.

Life, however, showed not only the danger, but the groundlessness of the main postulates of the U.S. Administration's foreign policy. First and foremost, Washington's calculations that by expediting U.S. military preparations, it would be possible to wreck military-strategic parity and tip the balance of forces between NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries in its favor failed to materialize. "Despite the $2 trillion rearmament spree undertaken by the U.S. Administration," THE WASHINGTON POST notes in this connection, today the U.S. military machine does not have any marked superiority over the Soviet Armed Forces. Nor did the hopes that by imposing an arms race on us, the United States would be able to exhaust and undermine the socialist countries' economies come to fruition.

Not all Americans have immediately recognized the lessons of the past few years.

Yet, in the United States there is a gradually growing distrust in the recipes proposed by the Republican administration for "strong-arm" and "surgical" solutions to world problems. Fears are mounting here over the possibly catastrophic consequences of the policy of confrontation, which Washington cannot or will not abandon.

Now that the process of the normalization of Soviet-U.S. relations under the influence of Geneva has been somewhat stepped up [neskolko aktivizirovalsya] and the White House, in its own words, is "studying in detail" the range of Soviet peace proposals that demand a really businesslike response, many people in the United States are asking the question: What can we expect from U.S. leaders? Are they prepared to go further than changing the tone of their speeches and agreeing to seek compromises?

Specific answers to these questions will be given by Washington's practical actions. But, without waiting for this, another United States will have its say. The answer will be given in its citizens' homes, on city streets and squares where peace compaigners demonstrate, and under the vaults of the Capitol where discussions rage between sober-minded legislators and "hawks." In other words, it will depend to a considerable extent on the correlation of forces in the United States itself and in the world and on the degree of activeness of social movements.

The wide-ranging complex of peace initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union is having a powerful influence on the international political climate. As the U.S. Peace Council statement says, "The phased plan proposed by the Soviet Union for ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2000 along with the Soviet Union's extension of its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions are not only inspiring news for all those who struggle for peace, but a remarkable opportunity which must be grasped by all peace-loving forces."

PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR VERIFICATION EXAMINED

PM241553 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 23 Jan 86 p 3

[Article by political observer Vladimir Katin: "Moratorium Is the Path to Disarmament"]

[Excerpt] As is well known, our country does not limit itself to mere calls for the halting of nuclear tests. Last August a decision was adopted to unilaterally halt any nuclear explosions through 31 December 1985. Now the Soviet leadership has extended the moratorium by an additional 3 months, that is through 31 March. This moratorium will operate even longer if the United States also halts nuclear tests. "We propose once more to the United States," M.S. Gorbachev's statement says, "that it join in this undertaking whose importance is obvious to literally everyone in the world."

I want to note in particular the fact that it was far from simple to make the decision to extend the Soviet moratorium. Something else is also clear: The Soviet Union cannot continue to display one-sided restraint in regard to nuclear tests indenfinitely. But its degree of responsibility is too great for Moscow not to try every opportunity to influence the position of others by force of example.

The United States excused its refusal to join the moratorium by alleging that nuclear explosions are hard to verify. But these arguments have absolutely no foundation. The Soviet statement especially stresses that verification is not a problem for the Soviet Union. Incidentally, the Soviet Union is not any less interested in effective control than the United States. Here is the opinion of Swedish Prime Minister O. Palme: "The work done by my country's experts in this field convinced me long ago that the scientific and technical knowledge and experience accumulated provide an opportunity for ensuring the necessary verification of compliance with a treaty banning any nuclear weapons tests."

How can verification questions be resolved in practice?

The necessary verification of the observance of the moratorium will be fully ensured by national technical means and with the aid of international procedures. In certain cases on-site inspection can be organized. The Soviet Union is prepared for all these measures and invited the United States to reach honest agreement on them.

The interesting and promising points put forward in a joint message from six states -- Argentina, Mexico, Tanzania, India, Sweden, and Greece -- deserve attention in this connection. In this message they suggested creating special stations on their countries' territories for monitoring the implementation of an accord on ending nuclear weapons tests.

It should be emphasized that the nonaligned countries are suggesting holding consultations with a view to also extending the 1963 Moscow treaty on banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space, and underwater so as to embrace underground tests which are not covered by the treaty. The Soviet Union also agrees with this proposal.

Incidentally, in the opinion of someone as competent to judge these matters as former CIA Director Colby, the observance of a moratorium on nuclear explosions "could undoubtedly be ensured with the aid of existing national technical means of verification."

I shall dwell on a problem which, it seems to me, must be of interest to readers: What kind of explosions can be picked up by modern equipment, how, and by what means?

The United States right now has 105 seismological stations in 55 countries joined into a global standardized network. These stations are equipped with highly sensitive instruments which ensure a record of the slightest seismic fluctuations.

Here experience and practice attest that there can be no errors or miscalculation in determining the nature of an explosion. Thus, two major U.S. specialists in this field, L. Sykes and (D. Ivernden), noting the high degree of reliability of the U.S. system for verifying nuclear explosions, state that not a single one of the several hundred nuclear explosions in their 20 years of work has been mistaken for an earthquake. They discount any likelihood of an occurrence remaining undetected if all methods at the specialists' disposal are used.

Seismic and hydroacoustic devices located in the seas and oceans can also be used to detect nuclear explosions. The United States also has a network of these devices. Moreover, satellite systems observing the earth's surface can be used for these purposes.

The Soviet Union also possesses the necessary means for detecting nuclear explosions. Last year, for example, Soviet stations recorded a very low-yield underground nuclear explosion which was carried out unannounced in the United States.

Soviet specialists consider that there now exist entirely reliable means in the world to verify whether a country is conducting nuclear tests or not. It is impossible at the present stage of scientific and technological development to deceive or outwit one another. I will give an example. A U.S. public organization, the Council for the Protection of Natural Resources, has distributed a report it prepared on underground nuclear weapons tests which were not announced by the U.S. Administration. The organization maintains that the United States has conducted 18 unannounced nuclear explosions. Virtually all of these explosions were recorded by an observatory operating under the auspices of the Swedish national defense research institute.

As we can see, even unofficial organizations detect the unannounced explosions conducted by the United States. Thus, the developed states are capable of monitoring one another and knowing precisely whether commitments are being fulfilled or not. The whole point is that the United States does not want to enter into an agreement on banning nuclear tests and all manner of means and pretexts about the difficulties of monitoring are being used to somehow justify its reluctance to the world public. In detonating more and more new devices the United States is continuing to pursue the impossible dream of military superiority.

Thus, the solution of the problem of totally banning nuclear weapons tests does not in any way depend on deficiencies or a lack of sophistication in monitoring, but on a lack of political will for this in the United States.

I would like to emphasize here the following fact: Our country resolutely favors the moratorium becoming a bilateral and then, a multilateral act. We also favor the renewal of trilateral talks (involving the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain) on a complete and general ban on nuclear weapons tests. This could be done as early as January.

Thus, in extending its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions and appealing to Washington to follow its example our country is making yet another attempt to save mankind from nuclear catastrophe. Otherwise, the process of military rivalry will snowball and the development of events will become impossible to control.

Our country proposes embarking on the path of sensible, responsible decisions. It is now up to the United States to speak up and act.

MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR WEAPONS DISCUSSED IN GENEVA

LD301259 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Geneva, January 30 TASS -- The group on medium-range nuclear weapons held a meeting here today within the framework of the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space arms.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD022035 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 2 Feb 86

["International Observers Roundtable" with Rudolf Georgiyevich Kolchanov, deputy editor in chief of TRUD; Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Lebedev, deputy editor in chief of MIROVAYA EKONOMIKA I MEZHDUNARODNYYE OTNOSHENIYA; and Aleksandr Vladimirovich Zholkver, political correspondent for Central Television and All-Union Radio]

Stockholm Conference, MBFR Talks

[Text] [Zholkver] Hello comrades! The response to the wide-scale peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, which have been set forth in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement, is continuing to come in from many countries. The response from the European countries is particularly great. I saw a lengthy article by Willy Brandt, chairman of Socialist International and leader of German Social Democratic Party, on the problems, as he expressed himself, in the second phase of the detente policy in Europe. Noting that relations between the superpowers -- the Soviet Union and the United States -- as far as securing peace is concerned are beginning to change, Brandt points to the fact that Europe can and must use this chance. It has to be said that the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe, represents one such major opportunity. It renewed its work in the Swedish capital last week. As far as I am aware, you, Rudolf Georgiyevich happened to be in Stockholm. What is the situation there now?

[Kolchanov] Yes, I happened to be at the Stockholm conference. True, not very recently, about 7 or 8 months ago, but I naturally continue to follow the proceedings of this conference and I will gladly share my views. First of all, I would like to say that the words which you just quoted, Brandt's words -- Europe can and must -- are of high significance. Indeed, Europe can; after Helsinki Europe has proved what it can do. During this decade, the political contacts, including the top level ones, have become far broader, the economic and scientific and technological contacts between the states with different social system have broadened; cultural, sports, trade union exchanges and so on have become wider. This means that Europe has demonstrated what it can do.

[Zholkver] It was not just by chance that Mikhail Sergeyevich called Europe the construction site for detente.

[Kolchanov] The construction site for detente -- it can and must do a lot. It has to because this region and this continent possess a special place both in the history of mankind and in the present international situation. I, too, would like to quote the words of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, voiced by him at the dinner given in honor of the Italian Communist Party delegation. It is notably here on this continent, said Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, where, as we see it, there now exist all the conditions for overcoming the alienation between East and West, especially as far as the issues of security and mutually advantageous cooperation are concerned. Thus, one of the factors that must assist in overcoming this alienation, in getting cooperation under way, in strengthening security on our continent is undoubtedly the Stockholm conference.

Two years have passed since the start of work of this conference in which 33 European states plus the United States and Canada are participating. These are the states that signed the Final Act in Helsinki. The aim of this conference follows from its title: to achieve an accord on confidence building measures, security and disarmament in Europe.

At the start, much skepticism was expressed by Western media in relation to the slow pace of the proceeding, to the virtual absence of any kind of accord and so on. Indeed, difficulties did exist, because very serious issues were being discussed. Nevertheless, progress is now noticeable.

The socialist countries are waging a persistent struggle in order to achieve much greater progress. Notably our countries have made proposals which envisage specific undertakings on the non-use of force and specific measures for strengthening confidence in the military sphere. The most complex issue on the Stockholm conference agenda is the issue about notification concerning large ground forces, and air exercises. However, without its solution, confidence in Europe cannot be strengthened. Despite the serious character of these issues, here too, it is possible to find a solution to this problem. This, in particular, is mentioned in Comrade Gorbachev's declaration. If a complex solution to the issues outlined by him proves impossible, then Mikhail Sergeyevich's question is: Why not seek their solution in stages?

For instance we could achieve an accord now on notification about major exercises of ground and air forces and transfer the issue of naval activity to the next round of the conference. This means that our present approach to Stockholm is an attempt to achieve results on some particular issues. The main thing required from the Stockholm conference is to call upon it to place barriers in the path of using force and concealed preparation for war, either on land, on sea, or in the air. We want specific undertakings on averting use of force and specific undertakings on confidence building measures.

[Zholkver] It is clear that the reduction of armaments represents the most important confidence building measure. These issues are on the agenda of other talks, which were also renewed last week. These are the talks in Vienna on mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. These talks have been going on much longer than the Stockholm talks. They are in their 13th year. However, so far, they have not yielded any specific results. Many times I happened to be in the Hofburg palace in Vienna, where these talks, attended by the Warsaw Pact states as well as by the NATO countries, are being held. Every time I witnessed a protracted, fruitless so-called numerical discussion. Endless calculations of the strengths of the opposing armed forces, which were based on various kinds of criteria, were discussed.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have proposed at one of the latest rounds of the talks to finally put an end to this aimless exercise. The more so because the rough parity between the Warsaw Pact and NATO armed forces has been evident for a very long time. And so, instead of lingering on with this numerical discussion, it was proposed to examine a specific program for reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. Such a proposal was made by ourselves, about a year ago. It was proposed as a first step to reduce the number of the Soviet Armed Forces in central Europe by 20,000 and the U.S. forces by 13,000 in the course of the year. And other participants in the talks -- the NATO countries as well as Warsaw Pact countries -- would undertake to freeze the level of their armed forces and armaments for this period, for this year. This would be, as I have already said, the first step and then it would be possible to negotiate further and more major reductions of armed forces and armaments by all states in central Europe.

At the very end of the last round of the Viennese talks, this was at the beginning of December last year, the NATO countries' representatives apparently answered our proposals. Now, an outline for a possible solution is appearing. In any case, I saw on the pages of the Viennese paper KURIER the opinion, that for the first time there exist justified hopes for progress in the Viennese talks.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's declaration stresses that the Soviet Union and our allies are filled with the will to achieve success at the Viennese talks.

[Kolchanov] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, Western powers have been putting the cart before the horse for a long time in Vienna by talking constantly about monitoring and not negotiating the subject which was to be monitored. We have been accused supposedly of avoiding monitoring. Now, in my opinion, Western politicians are finding that even putting the cart before the horse is very awkward, because we made a declaration about any kind of control, sensible control, if of course there is essentially an accord.

[Zholkver] Yes, we are by no means less interested in monitoring than the Americans.

[Lebedev] If you will allow me.

[Zholkver] Yes, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich.

[Lebedev] I would like to join in your discussion about Vienna in particular. Of course, the impulse which has been provided by the new Soviet proposals made by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is immense, and what's more it can be applied to the Vienna talks. Clearly it is a good thing when a fairly solid British newspaper like the FINANCIAL TIMES writes that the talks on mutual armed forces and armaments reductions in central Europe are being resumed in Vienna in an optimistic atmosphere of a kind that has not existed here for many years. Furthermore, the author of the article links this directly with the set of major initiatives of the Soviet Union, and does so in an attempt to find some similarity, so to speak, with the proposals of Western countries. Well, thank God for that!

[Kolchanov] Fair enough. Fair enough.

[Lebedev] It's very good, because this is what our ideas are aimed at. Of course, there are other ideas here, too, which play no small part. They have been proposed in party by our country; in many cases, if one takes a historical view of things, they have also been proposed by other European states. like, for example, the idea of declaring nuclear-free zones. It is clear that by itself of course this initiative does not solve the problem of ending the nuclear arms race, but without a doubt it would exert a restraining influence. Overall, this is not a new idea. Way back in the 1950's, Poland proposed a nuclear-free zone plan for central Europe, the Rapacki plan. We also know about the initiative of the former Finnish President Kekkonene concerning the creation of a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe. All these initiatives have been supported by our country, which has pledged its willingness to serve as one of the guarantors of the ovservance of these nuclear-free zones. This idea gained force very rapidly and won an increasing number of supporters.

Later, the initiative to make the Balkans a nuclear-free zone took shape: It is being advanced actively by Bulgaria, Greece and a number of other countries on the Balkan peninsula. In addition, people know about the proposal which has also been supported by our country and the Warsaw Pact countries about setting up a nuclear-free corridor, so to speak, along the borders of the two alliances, the Warsaw Pact and NATO. In short, in its different versions, so to speak, this idea, too, which is very important, has now gone beyond the strictly European scale. And indeed this is not just an idea. It is already reality, and if one considers the Tlateloco treaty for instance, the treaty banning nuclear weapons in Latin America, essentially this already declares latin America to be a nuclear-free zone. This treaty is in force. Furthermore, although this is not a very thickly populated part of the globe of course, the Antarctic Continent has also been declared to be a zone where military activity is ruled and forbidden.

Recently a group of states in the southern Pacific; Australia, New Zealand and a number of smaller ones, also declared enormous expanses of the southern part of the Pacific Ocean to be a nuclear-free zone.

All this fits in precisely with the ideas that have now been put forward by our leadership. And at the same time, if you will allow me to go, because I don't want us to get carried off into other topics and perhaps leave out a very important part of our proposals -- the point is to rid mankind by the year 2000 both of nuclear weapons. This is very important and it is something that could be achieved, I won't say easily, but relatively quickly given the fact that this problem has been worked on during the preceding period, during the years 1976-1980, when Soviet-U.S. talks took place on working out a convention to ban chemical weapons.

Challenger Tragedy

[Zholkver] Well, I think we can now move on to another aspect of our proposals which is of no less importance, the space aspect. I have to say that this problem, literally over the past few days, has acquired a new, I would say, dramatic aspect in connection with the disaster that befell the U.S. space shuttle Challenger. The causes of this accident have not yet been established, although search groups and numerous commissions of experts are engaged in this. Some of them recall that the launch of the Challenger, and before that, the launch of the Columbia, another similar ship, were postponed repeatedly because of malfunctions of various kinds. There was not always sufficient time left to remove these because the launches followed one after another. In this connection, there is an interesting report from a correspondent of the U.S. CBS television company who is accredited to the Pentagon. He stated that NASA, the American space administration, is not keeping up with the requirements of its main clients, the military clients, who are continuing research in the SDI field, the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative.

[Kolchanov] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, this failure to keep up might result in new tragedies. Let me quote a statement made quite recently at the Detroit Economics Club by Defense Secretary Weinberger. According to Weinberger, continuing work within the "star wars" program is now one of the main priorities of the U.S. Administration, and Weinberger called directly for the creation of a new space shuttle.

[Lebedev] Yes, and on this very issue I would like to share my own, simply human, feelings in connection with the Challenger tragedy, and with the simply surprising, I would say indecent, haste with which very highly-placed U.S. officials immediately began to say no, no, no, this disaster, this tragedy, will in no way affect any of the plans linked with the implementation of this so-called SDI program and so on, although....

[Kolchanov, interrupting] You no doubt have in mind the statement that was made by Abrahamson.

[Lebedev] And by Weinberger and...

[Zholkver, interrupting] Yes, literally hours after the disaster there was a meeting between Abrahamson and leading figures in the U.S. Congress and he stated that we must not permit this tragedy to hinder implementation of SDI plans.

[Kolchanov] Yes, that's an exact, direct, quote from him, not permit.

[Lebedev] In this kind of situation, you know, questions of decency and morals do arise, but let us leave those to one side for a moment and think about the common-sense aspect, the issue that can never be left outside the brackets. Throughout this entire recent episode we have observed the astonishing arrogance and even, I venture to say, the conceit with which various U.S. officials have talked about there being no problems, no serious technological problems, which would prevent the implementation of all these programs for putting up space strike weapons. It's an astonishing confidence in the superiority of U.S. technology. They can do it all, it's all possible and it's all within their capabilities, so to speak. Now we see, in the example of just one single flight, that these much-vaunted computers have not shown any defectiveness at any stage, right up to the time of the explosion. The American specialists themselves point out that with the deployment of space armaments, the computers will have to carry out tens of millions and up to hundreds of millions of operations.

I will allow myself once again on the human side to ask this question. Surely this tragedy must have taught something, in this sense, to those who are rushing into space with weapons? In general terms, I read something that might reply to this question in THE NEW YORK TIMES. Reston writes that after the disaster Washington figures from both political parties began to realize that they are dealing with weapons which are capable of blowing up the world and which they will not always be able to control. This, the observer writes, is the gloomy lesson of the tragedy that took place in the sky over Florida. God forbid that these victims lost their lives in vain; may the right conclusion be drawn.

[Zholkver] It has to be said that it is not just in the United States that they are drawing this conclusion or beginning to do so. We have been talking a lot about Europe today and that is quite natural. I have seen, for example, a statement by Karsten Voigt, a prominent FRG politician, a Social Democrat and an expert in disarmament and security. He stated directly that the Challenger disaster must become the grounds for a reexamination of attitudes toward the "star wars" plans and the plans for implementing the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative. It is interesting that quite different newspapers have commented in exactly the same tone, almost identically: newspapers like the British THE GUARDIAN and the French LIBERATION. They also say what you were saying, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, that it is impossible to rely on computers, especially when it's going to be a question of creating a gigantic space shild or space sword, and that the danger and the threat have now been demonstrated particularly vividly.

At the same time, however, I would also like to mention something else. Yes, the United States has been shaken by all of this. But there have been shocks of a different kind. What have U.S. news agencies been noting at this time? The fall in the prices of shares in companies like Rockwell International, Lockheed, Morton and Martin Marietta. All these are companies engaged in the production of space weapons. What is worrying them more than anything else now is the question of whether they are going to lose military orders because of this, the military orders that have already been announced by the Pentagon, 550 contracts for the current year, and a further 150 contracts -- just for space weapons -- for next year, already planned. It is expected that 17 billion dollars will be spent on these contracts alone up to the year 1989.

[Kolchanov] To judge from the statements by U.S. politicians, military-industrial corporations -- in particular those mentioned by you, Aleksandr Vladimirovich -- have no need to worry about the fate of their profits.

[Zholkver] But you know, Rudolf Georgiyevich, I think it should be noted that the concerns we have named are, of course, the biggest sharks in that world, but both they and the others are making a fortune out of producing not only space and not just nuclear weapons, but by producing conventional weapons as well. Furthermore, the weapons are delivered not only to the U.S. Army but also to numerous military outfits in other countries, U.S. mercenary outfits.

Savimbi Visit to U.S.

Among these, the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs active in Angola have been mentioned particularly frequently recently. Just last week, Savimbi, UNITA gang ring-leader, was received with pomp in Washington. He held talks with President Reagan, Pentagon chief Weinberger, and naturally, Secretary of State Shultz. The U.S. Congress is now broadly discussing plans to increase to $300 million the allocation for arming UNITA gangs, which carry out terrorist and sabotage activities in Angola.

In connection with this, I would like to recall that again last week, Soviet-Angolan-Cuban consultations were held in Moscow and the possible development of the Angola situation as a result of this open support and increase in aid to UNITA by the U.S. Administration was examined. This was seen as direct interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign Angola and both the Soviet Union and Cuba confirmed thier solidarity with the struggle of the Angolan people in defense of its independent political choice.

[Kolchanov] We are discussing, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, the subject of regional conflicts, about which much is being written and much is being said. But I think that today we could single out one side, so to speak, of this problem, one aspect -- the fundamental origin of these regional conflicts. Efforts at extinguishing hotbeds of tension or at preventing them from spreading, are hampered by the habit of looking at conflict situations through the prism of political or ideological confrontation between East and West. In reality, it is short-sighted and dangerous to build policies on erroneous conceptions. The conflicts grow out of the local social, economic, and political soil.

There are any number of examples here. I would take South Africa and cite just a few figures. The Pretoria regime has divided the country's population into racial groups. On the lowest rung are the indigenous inhabitants which make up almost three-quarters of the RSA's total population. Three-quarters, but they are permitted to settle on 13 percent of the country's territory. They are deprived of all civil rights and cannot even enter a white zone without a special pass. For identical work, blacks are paid 6 times less than whites. The South African Government spends 8 times less on the education of an African child than on the education of a white child. Three million black South African children are starving. The army and the police shoot at peaceful demonstrations: around 1,000 Africans have died over the past year. Thousands of people have been thrown into prison. Eighty percent of the RSA's political prisoners are tortured. What need is there to look for anything here? What need is there to look for outside interference? Everything originates in...

[Zholkver, interrupting] What is the hand of Moscow in this?

[Kolchanov] Where is there even any hint of Moscow's hand? It all originates in local conditions, because of the genuinely inhuman violence against the indigenous population, which is forced to fight for the remnants of its rights...

[Zholkver, interrupting] For its liberation!

[Kolchanov] For its liberation, for a normal human life. Those are the roots of this conflict, to put things in a very simplified form.

Situation in Haiti Caribbean

[Lebedev] Yes, let us continue, Rudolf Georgiyevich, on the subject you raised. We often talk about very hotspots, so to speak, where tension has already reached the highest level possible, but I would like to talk about the case of a country which is very rarely mentioned now -- Jamaica, a small state in the Caribbean Sea. For a few years there was a regime there which was democratically elected by the people. We have just been talking about the hand of Moscow, well there it was quite definitely a case of the hand of Washington. Eventually, that democratic government was removed and, by means of various machinations, which the CIA knows how to carry out especially in the Central American region...

[Zholkver] So to speak, a soft Grenada scenario.

[Lebedev] A soft Grenada scenario: precisely in that way a certain Seaga was installed in power -- a government led by this Seaga. It did not take long for this government to show the true significance of its scenario, so to speak, and of its method of administration. The U.S. newspaper TRIBUNE [not further identified] now openly writes that today only 2 percent of the population think that the Jamaican Government's policies are good, and the irony, writes the newspaper, lies in the fact that Washington helped to install Seaga in power, for fear that Jamaica might become a second Cuba. Instead, under Seaga, Jamaica is becoming more like Haiti, that model of poverty dictatorial rule.

[Zholkver] Incidentally, in Haiti at the moment, the people are also demanding an end at last to the absence of rights and the oppression.

[Kolchanov] In Haiti very recently during the breaking up of a peaceful demonstration, 10 people were killed and dozens of demonstrators were seriously injured.

[Lebedev, interrupting] It would seem that this punishment and the blood which is flowing are not directly connected with the monstrous debts which the developing countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa find themselves saddled with. But in fact they are connected, for it is no coincidence that the $250 billion extorted from the developing countries approximately corresponds to the military expenditure demanded by the Pentagon. All this is interrelated and it all leads to regional destabilization and could very easily lead to international destabilization as well.

In this connection I think our recent initiative in the direction of international economic security is of great importance. We have already seen in many cases, including our own case, in our country's experience, the way in which the imperialist powers set in motion an arbitrariness -- in the literal meaning of the word -- in international economic relations. They attempt to use illegal boycotts, illegal sanctions, embargoes, etc as political weapons, as weapons for enslaving let us say weaker and smaller countries. In connection with this, the Soviet Union's proposal concerning the consolidation of the regime of international economic security, is, of course, extremely timely and important.

[Zholkver] We have examined, comrades, quite varied aspects of the contemporary international situation -- a situation which is complex, tense, and changing before our eyes. This analysis shows time and again that we have to act to stop the arms race and put the course of international events on the rails of peaceful development. We must act immediately, and all governments, parties and peoples must act.

Our party was guided by this when it proposed the concrete large-scale peace initiatives which are set out in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement, and which have met with the most broad, active and positive response throughout the world.

Thank you, comrades, for participating in this discussion. Thank you, comrades listeners, for your attention. All the best!

KAPITSA ENDORSED AS SOVIET UNESCO CHAIRMAN

LD311107 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 31 TASS -- The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. endorsed the appointment of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. Mikhail Kapitsa as chairman of the UNESCO Commission of the U.S.S.R.

SUDAN ASKS UN TO EXAMINE SOUTHERN AFRICA 'TENSION'

LD301927 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 30 TASS -- On behalf of a group of African countries in the United Nations Sudan requested that a meeting of the United Nations Security Council be urgently convened to discuss the situation in southern Africa. The Security Council had discussed the situation in southern Africa more than once in the past few months. The agressive actions of the South African racist regime against neighboring states create a constant source of tension in southern Africa. Invasions of the territories of Angloa and Lesotho by Pretoria troops have been condemned at the Council 's meetings. The United States and Britain vetoed in November the fraft resolution demanding all-embracing sanctions against the Republic of South Africa and thus showed again that thet play the unsavoury role of the accomplices of the apartheid regime.

BRIEFS

STATEMENT CIRCULATES AT UN -- New York, January 31 TASS -- The January 20, 1986, statement of the foreign affairs commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities (chambers) of the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament) has been circulated at the United Nations Organization as an official document of the U.N. General Assembly. The statement welcomes the decision of the 40th session of the U.N. General Assembly to designate 1986 as an International Year of Peace and expresses support for its main goals and programmes.

[Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1824 GMT 31 Jan 86 LD]

MORE REPORTS, COMMENTARY ON SHUTTLE EXPLOSION

Possibility of Toxic Fragments

LD311325 Moscow TASS in English 1236 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 31 TASS -- An investigation is continuing into the causes of the crash of the American space shuttle Challenger and the death of its seven astronauts.

Special groups comprising officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Pentagon and other agencies, employing 13 naval vessels and about a dozen U.S. Air Force planes, are looking for fragments of the spaceplane that fell into the Atlantic Ocean.

According to press reports, tons of debris, including a part of a solid-fuel booster and and instrument panel of the control panel have been retrieved. Big objects have been found lying on the ocean floor with the help of sonars. Parts of the craft body are believed to be among them. Divers were dispatched into the area.

Search operations are being carried out along the coast of Florida. Radio and television in regular broadcasts urge people to hand over to the authorities all fragments they might find and warn them against handling green-coloured objects which might result in poisoning by highly toxic substances.

Administration Plans 'Brainwash' Campaign

LD311856 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1355 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Washington, 31 Jan (TASS) -- The investigation is continuing into the causes of the catastrophe, as a result of which the U.S. space shuttle Challenger exploded and the cosmonauts on board her perished.

New York, 31 Jan (TASS) -- As THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper noted, the White House is soon to announce the setting up of an "independent group" to study the prospects for the U.S. space program in the light of the Challenger disaster. It "will focus its attention on the future of the space program" in order to "strengthen confidence in it on the part of the executive authorities, Congress, and the public." It is evidently a question of the U.S. Administration's intention of launching a broad campaign to brainwash the country's public opinion in the aim of crushing the fears of Americans who believe that Challenger's fate is a serious warning to those who plan to deploy weapons systems in space.

Reagan Eulogy Noted

LD010454 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] In Houston, Texas, there has been a memorial service for the seven astronauts who died in the Challenger space shuttle disaster. In his eulogy at the ceremony, President Reagan said that despite the pain man would press on to explore the universe. The pain that Americans feel at this loss is shared by the people in the Soviet Union and Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a message of condolences to the people of the United States and to the families of the dead.

Observers say that the Challenger explosion has prompted many Americans to draw a lesson from this tragedy about the unreliability of the space technology with which the Pentagon hopes to carry out its plans for militarizing outer space.

Venus Craters Named After Astronauts

LD011236 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0850 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Moscow, 1 Feb (TASS) -- Two craters on Venus are to be named after the two American women astronauts Judith Resnik and Sharon Christa McAuliffe, who tragically perished in the launch of Challenger. SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA reports that Soviet cartographers have adopted this decision. Today the paper publishes an article about the work of the Soviet scientists who complied the first maps of the surface of the planet Venus.

Pentagon 'Concerned' Over Shuttle

LD011748 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 1 TASS -- Special teams consisting of representatives of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Pentagon and other departments continue investigating the causes of the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in which seven American astronauts died.

The CBS television company reported that salvage teams lifted from the Atlantic the nose part of the speceship and other fragements. Under water robots are used in the quest which is complicated by strong currents. Specialists are also analysing the telemetric formation which came from board the Challenger [as recieved]. The three remaining spaceships of this type are thoroughly checked.

Meanwhile the U.S. press reports that the pall of secrecy had been thrown on the investigation of the reasons for the disaster. THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper indicated that the persons who earlier agreed to provide unofficial information now flatly refuse to discuss anything. Former astronauts and NASA officials act in the same way, the newspaper stresses.

The strategic group for space programme analysis holds a meeting in the Pentagon with the Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger at the head. Reports on the work of the group that are leaked into the press emphasize that the Pentagon leadership is extremely concerned over the outcome of the further work for using space in military purposes, above all for the research and experiments under the "star wars" programme.

Fuel Booster 'Crack' Suspected

LD022009 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 2 Feb 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The U.S. National Aeronuautics and Space Administration continues to study telemetry data and material objects to establish the reasons for the disaster the Challenger reusuable spacecraft. The attention of specialists is now concentrated on the supposition that the explosion occurred after a hole of crack formed in one of the solid fuel boosters and the jet of fire which was thrown out from there ignited the suspended fuel tank.

Judging by video recordings, it is possible that the flame broke out from the head section of one of the solid fuel boosters in the direction of the tank, press agencies note. THE NEW YORK TIMES has reported that according to information it has received, approximately 10 seconds before the explosion NASA registered a sudden fall in the climb thrust in the Challenger boosters. [Video shows shots of Challenger climbing upward, frozen shot of moment when flame breaks out at the side of the craft]

Tragedy Linked to SDI

OW010940 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1145 GMT 31 Jan 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by I. Fesunenko]

[Text] Hello comrades. The tragedy of U.S. spacecraft Challenger and its crew -- as a result of which you know seven astronauts perished -- will not be removed soon from the pages of newspapers and TV screens. This is understandable. The United States has been shaken. Sympathies and condolences now come to Houston and Washington from the entire world. Mourning continues through the United States. Flags are flying at half mast. Cinemas have closed. The search for remnants of the spacecraft continues. From morning until evening U.S. television carries interviews with agitated, shocked and sad Americans.

I would like to draw your attention to a commentary of THE NEW YORK TIMES which has reported that computer specialists are at a loss over the fact that none of the five computers on board the Challenger manufactured by the U.S. IBM Company -- computers which had stopped so many launchings -- this time failed to register any malfunction up to the very time of the explosion. As THE NEW YORK TIMES has noted, the computer system on board multi-use spacecraft for a long time has been praised as one of the greatest attainments of U.S. technology. Lately, writes THE NEW YORK TIMES, they have constantly been referred to as proof that the industry has actually mastered the very complicated programming of computers, something that is essential for controlling the system of the anti-missile shield which the Reagan administration has proposed to create.

Whether or not we want to admit it, we must still face one fact. The Challenger tragedy has exposed the complexities of space experiments, and revealed the presence of obvious dangers involved in the hasty and massive onslaught on space which has now been started by Washington in the form of SDI. The assertions of THE NEW YORK TIMES observer (Borfy) consequently appear all the more strange and without foundation when he admits that the tragedy at Cape Canaveral will greatly slow down all the work, including the launch schedule, of the space shuttle program, but and I quote, will not have a great effect on the President's plans for creating an anti-missile shield envisaged on the SDI.

In this connection there may be some truth in the supposition of Thacker, the scientific observer of THE GUARDIAN, who writes that the U.S. Defense Department has imposed stricter demands on its shuttle-type spacecraft missions program to obtain greater returns from the program and reduce times between missions. As a result, writes THE GUARDIAN, the interests of security may have suffered. By the way, a similar view has been expressed by the chief editor of OMNI, a U.S. scientific-technical magazine.

Further on, THE GUARDIAN draws a parallel between the shuttle program and the "star wars" program although he does not name the latter directly.

The world of space technology, writes THE GUARDIAN, remains a world of terrible unpredictability, even though politicians speak about some kind of brilliant future triumph of technology, about the time when a complex set of satellites and lasers will make it possible to open, in the face of a threat amounting to the total extermination of humanity, a gigantic umbrella of security and confidence over the entire continent. They are talking about an undertaking of tremendous scale and complexity. And we saw nothing even remotely similar yesterday, writes THE GUARDIAN, when we watched the tragic search for remnants of the spacecraft off the Florida coast.

Feeling that precisely such a reaction, such an attitude of distrust can now be brought about by Reagan's SDI plan, the director of the organization dealing with the implementation of this program, General Abrahamson, reports THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, met top congressional leaders just a few hours after the disaster and asked them to prevent the diaster from affecting the implementation of the SDI project. Local specialists think that his visit to Capitol Hill was dictated by the anxieties of Pentagon chiefs that the disaster will increase the skepticism of legislators concerning the "star wars" program and lead them to refuse allocating funds to the Pentagon for its implementation.

After that, U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, speaking in Detroit, stated unambiguously that his department will strive to get legislators to agree to allocating new funds for the implementation of the "star wars" programs and the creation of offensive space weapons. According to his words, the continuation of work within the framework of the notorious SDI is one of the most essential tasks of the Washington administration.

Disaster Prompts Reagan Remarks

LD311826 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 31 TASS -- President Ronald Reagan has made a speech in Washington that actually is a presentation of the political platform with which the Republican Party is preparing to approach the mid-term elections to congress and local government bodies in November this year. A third of the Senate of the United States Congress, the entire House of Representatives, the governors of several states and local government bodies will stand for election.

Judging by the president's remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference dinner, the administration intends to leave unchanged the main directions of its foreign and home policy based on starting a new round of the arms race, this including spreading it to outer space, and on pursuing a policy of state terrorism in the international arena.

Inside the country the administration's efforts are directed at giving every possible assistance to the monopolies and the military-industrial complex and drastically cutting social programmes on which the well being of millions of Americans depends.

When justifying this unpopular policy fraught with a serious danger to the cause of peace, Reagan again turned to his pet theme -- anti-Sovietism and anti-Communism. He directed rude and wholesale criticism against the Soviet Union's foreign policy, ascribed "expansionist" aims to it, openly called for implementing American-style "freedom" throughout the world, including in socialist countries ("from Afghanistan to Nicaragua to Poland and, yes, to Angola"), and for giving every possible assistance to forces of counter-revolution and anti-social elements on the CIA's payroll.

Among the various renegades and traitors to their countries that Washington tries hard to present as "human rights champions" the President especially singled out Savimbi who is engaged in bloody terror in Angola on assignment of United States secret services.

Why did the head of the U.S. Administration find it necessary to let loose a new anti-Soviet salvo at a time when America is mourning the seven astronauts who perished during the disaster of the Challenger space ship? The answer is obvious: The White House does not like the sentiments that have appeared in the United States after that disaster.

The explosion of the Challenger prompted many scientists and observers to call for a lesson to be drawn from this tragedy which demonstrated the unreliability of American space technology on which the Pentagon counts so much in the fulfillment of its plans to militarize outer space. They also stress the extreme danger of the very concept of the Strategic Defense Initiative. One of these people, the director of the Institute for Space and Security Problems, Robert Bowman, noted in an interview to an American television company that had a computer-controlled strategic defense system been deployed in space today it would have treated the Challenger explosion as evidence of "enemy attack" and would have put into action the entire huge arsenal of space weapons.

The disaster with the Challenger, the scientist went on, should make the administration aware of the danger and prompt it to conclude an agreement with the USSR on the non-militarization of outer space.

In his turn, columnist James Reston said that Americans belonging to both parties have begun to realise that they are dealing with a weapon that is capable of blowing up the world and which is beyond their control however hard they try.

It appears that the White House, the Pentagon and the other apologists of "star wars" view such sentiments as a mortal danger to their brainchild.

Tragedy Causes Doubts

PM311736 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 86 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent G. Vasiliyev dispatch: "Thoughts Following the Disaster"]

[Text] New York, 31 Jan -- The press continues to seek an answer to the question which perturbs the United States: what happened in the sky above the Kennedy Space Center on 28 January, why did the space shuttle explode 75 seconds after launch?

Here there are more questions than answers now. Deliberating at length about the inevitability of losses in a complex and risky enterprise like space exploration, calling on the nation to "unite in shared sorrow," and declaring that the implementation of space programs will continue come what may, official spokesmen avoid substantial answers and are unwilling to go into details of the specific tasks of Challenger's last flight and the cargo it was carrying on board. Americans have not overlooked the fact that the Coast Guard command is particularly concerned with the search for some kind of "green tin canister" among the space vehicle's debris. "Anyone touching it will be dead within 2 seconds," a command spokesman announced. People here are asking whether this canister could contain some kind of a new explosive which was to be studied in zero-gravity conditions on the Pentagon's orders.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST'S explanation, the U.S. military department is the main force urging on the shuttle flights. "The Pentagon," the newspaper writes, "is using the space vehicle's considerable capacity and load-carrying ability to put into orbit major reconnaissance, communications, and meteorological satellites and to conduct experiments on the presidential Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), in other words the 'star wars' program." The newspaper recalls that in February 1985 President Reagan confirmed an agreement between NASA and the Pentagon, under which the military department is allocated one-third of all shuttle launches.

On the day when the U.S. watched with horror how the space vehicle that had only just been launched into the blue sky turned first into a ball of fire and then into a snow-white cloud, THE NEW YORK TIMES published a document "slipped" to it by the Pentagon -- the "defense guidance." In this document, which has been "leaked to the press," military department chief Caspar Weinberger declares that the SDI program "must enjoy the highest priority" and that it will not be affected by a single one of the appropriation cuts planned by Congress.

Now, after the Challenger disaster, many people here have doubts not only as regards the organization of this particular flight, but also about the general direction of U.S. efforts in near-earth space, primarily the plans to deploy space weapons.

The Challenger disaster dealt a blow against one of the main postulates of the champions of the "star wars" program -- the technical feasibility of creating [sozdaniye] an "impenetrable ABM defense" which, it is claimed, would render nuclear weapons obsolete and would ensure peace all over the world. If this could have happened to a relatively well-tuned and proven space vehicle, how is it possible, people ask, to expect faultless performance by the multiplicity of ultra-complicated systems designed to control space platforms, nuclear charges, laser guns, and other "exotic" weapons which are to be "suspended" above the globe in accordance with the SDI program? Is this not the way to a universal disater?

The Challenger explosion, Congressman George Brown declared at a Washington press conference, has shattered any illusions that the absolutely flawless equipment envisaged by the "star wars" plans could guarantee U.S. security in the event of a nuclear war. Charles Hayes, another member of the U.S. House of Representatives, said that space programs must serve not military rivalry but the peaceful needs of all mankind.

Mourning the dead astronauts, Americans are pondering over events and thinking about the main question of our time, the question of preventing war and safeguarding peace.

Explosion Hurts SDI

LD011607 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Aleksandr Pogodin commentary]

[Text] There have been further comments in the world media about the explosion in which the American astronauts aboard the space shuttle Challenger were killed. In many comments, the disaster in the sky over Cape Canaveral is viewed in direct connection with various aspects of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, or the "star wars" program to put it simply. More on the subject from our commentator Aleksandr Pogodin. This is what he writes:

It is legitimate to put the issue in this way: The arguments of the supporters of this program are ultimately reduced to the fact that the program as much as guarantees protection against nuclear missiles, and in this way will make nuclear arms useless and redundant. According to reports in the U.S. media, though quite contradictory, the star wars plans provide for filling space with highly complex technical-military devices of various types, the interaction of which must be absolutely reliable. The idea is to develop a sophisticated system, that is devoid even of the slightest malfunction.

But do such guarantees exist? It is a fact that the Challenger's reliability had been tested before each successive flight, to rule out a possible malfunction of any component or unit. And yet a horrible disaster did occur. As for the "star wars" system, if it is developed, it will be several times more complicated than the Challenger system. Specialists believe that the degree of its reliability will be rather low.

Now what does that mean? In the opinion of the director of the Institute for Space and Security Studies, Robert Bowman, an explosion of a space ship in orbit after systems of armaments have been deployed in space would activate computers and only one command would be given to put the systems in action. As the American scientist feels, this is a rather probable accident that could bring about a nuclear war. He underlined that humanity realized even more deeply now the terrible danger to the planet posed by the deployment of arms in space.

It that truth realized at last in Washington? Will the proper conclusions be drawn there?

U.S. Technology Questioned

LD022119 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Feb 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by "Novosti" political observer Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Text] Hello comrades! Television provides viewers if not with the illusion of participation in the events shown then at least with the reality of experience with the participants. It is not without reason that at this time in America they remember the assassination of President John Kennedy when television brought to the world the terrible reality of that U.S. tragedy. The death of the U.S. cosmonauts last Wednesday cannot fail to arouse a feeling of grief. Viewers saw them taking up the watch in space, saw them going optimistically to the space ship which the proud name Challenger and they did not know that the television cameras would engrave them on its magnetic memory for the last time. Among them was the teacher Christa McAuliffe, born in 1949, chosen from thousands of candidate teachers to conduct lessons from space by television. These shots went out throughout the world. The United States is in mourning until Monday. Let us give the seven who perished in the impulse for knowledge their due. The ancients used to say that the path to the stars lies across thorns. Icarus tried to fly but he did not take account of all the possible dangers. The creators of Challenger also overlooked something: computers calculated to cope with all conceivable unforseen situations on this occasion showed complete calm right up to the explosion. They were not ready for what happened. And apart from the tritely comforting thoughts about the inevitability of risk, thoughts and doubts which have significance for the future are now occuring to Americans. They write about excessive haste, as the U.S. space program has a driver -- the Pentagon, the Department of Defense, newspapers write, was in a great hurry with this flight. Here is a quote: When a space ship has to be returned to orbit at the demand of the military literally a few weeks after the preceding flight, this creates the most acute problems for technical monitoring.

And another doubt has arisen, and here I am again repeating what the newspapers say: The doubt consists in whether faith in the perfection of U.S. technology is really so justified. At the same time it is precisely this faith that lies at the foundation of the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative. Can one entrust the fate of a country and of the world to the computers of a system of antimissile defense? Something, somewhere, in orbit suddenly explodes and automatic space firing starts. And in contrast with what happened to Challenger, there will not be anyone to search for the fragments to explain the causes of the disaster. The well known observer James Reston writes for example: Washington figures have begun to realize that they are dealing with weapons which can blow the world up, and which, even with the most careful attention they will not always be able to control. Such is the grim lesson of the tragedy which occurred in the sky above Florida. This process of realization which Reston writes about has not yet touched the Pentagon. One can see this by the statements that the military part of the space program will not suffer as a result of what has happened. Military business aspires to retain the turnover and profits it has gathered. [Video shows crew of Challenger preparing for the flight, followed by Challenger exploding in the air, interview with Christa McAuliffe, and search for fragments of Challenger]

MEDVID CLAIMS 'INCARCERATION' AT U.S. NAVAL BASE

LD311724 Moscow TASS in English 1701 GMT 31 Jan 86

["Miroslav Medvid: I Am Ready To Meet With Any Congressman" -- TASS item identifier]

[Text] Lvov, January 31 TASS -- "I has never entered into conflict with law and has been never arrested even temporarily," [as received] Miroslav Medvid, 26, a seaman of the Soviet merchant marine, has said in an interview with a TASS correspondent. He humorously regarded the report that the U.S. press declared him to be a "Soviet political prisoner".

The correspondent met with the young man today in the room of the selection commission of state university in Lvov. Miroslav is getting ready to enter this institution of higher learning and went there to get the necessary study programmes.

"On October 24, 1985, when our motorship was at the U.S. port of New Orleans, I fell overboard and sustained a serious injury," he related. "Those days were like a bad dream to me: The U.S. authorities tried forcibly to detain me and to incline into betraying my motherland. I managed to get away from U.S. secret services and to return to the motorship 'Marshal Konev'. Upon my return to the Soviet Union I learned that they say that unbelievable things happen to me. At one moment they say that I am put to death, at another that I am thrown into prison".

"Zealous U.S. defenders of my rights", Medvid went on to say, "already know that I am alive and well. This time they 'are shedding tears' over my alleged incarceration. I want to advise them: Don't worry, my freedom is guaranteed for me in actual fact by the constitution of the Soviet Union".

Upon learning that some senators intend to write him a letter to make certain that this is really so, he said:

"This is my address for them to write a letter: Medvid Miroslav Vasilyevich, Selets village, Sokal district, Lvov region, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the USSR". "If high-placed gentlemen want to see for themselves how I live", he added, "let them come to my place at the above-mentioned address where I live with my parents. My father is a coal miner and my mother works at a collective farm.

"They are hospitable folks and will readily and frankly talk to the guests, for they were worried a good deal when I was held hostage in New Orleans."

Miroslav Medvid pointed out with regret that he has much spare time so far. "Because of my injured left hand, I am taking yet another treatment course and I am preparing for entrance examinations at the university. If one is to speak about 'incarceration'", the former seaman says, "I did experience it, and it lasted 26 hours at a U.S. Coast Guard boat and at a U.S. naval base."

FURTHER REPORTS ON U.S.-LIBYAN TENSIONS

Whitehead Admits Failure

LD311640 Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 31 TASS -- First Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead [title as received] has held a press conference at the Department of State. He said he had made a ten day trip to Canada and Western Europe and admitted he had failed to get from the U.S. allies (?concrete) practical support for American anti-Libyan "sanctions".

As was clear from John Whitehead's statement, in the course of his trip he insisted that West Europeans and Canadians should terminate or sharply reduce oil purchases from Libya and should lead things to curtailing trade, specifically deliveries of their commodities to Libya, that they should restrict air communication and reduce personnel of their embassies and respectively Libya's representations in their countries. But the main demand Whitehead made was that the allies should not undermine the efficiency of American economic sanctions against Libya.

John Whitehead admitted that the calls to the allies and arguments of the administration did not produce the desired effect and that in the course of his trip he was compelled to use the expression "peace measures against Libya" instead of the word "sanctions". Answering journalists, he said that [word indistinct] with the so-called "peace measures" Ronald Reagan considered also a possibility of conducting military actions against Libya and that the President reserved that "right" depending on "Libya's further conduct".

Such is the essence of the "neoglobalism" policy, the policy of U.S. direct and indirect interference into internal affairs of developing states the political course of which does not suit the U.S. Administration.

'Military Force' Possible

LD011554 Moscow TASS in English 1531 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 1 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev writes: Starting with today the economic trade and financial sanctions introduced by the United States against sovereign Libya apply in full volume.

In practice this means, in particular, that those American citizens who had not left Libya by February 1 become, in effect, common criminals. According to President Reagan's executive order they can be put in prison for a period of up to ten years and fined 50,000 dollars. Also in accordance with this order American companies in Libya must stop all their operations. Violators of this are also subject to tough punishment.

As is known, many of the sanctions announced by the Washington administration on January 7 became effective already on that day. Thus, to quote a high placed representative of the Department of State, not a single American company has concluded any new deals with Libya, the delivery of Libyan goods to the United States has stopped and the issuance of licenses for the supply of American goods to Libya has been terminated. In addition to this the White House has impounded Libyan assets in the United States to the total sum of several hundred million dollars.

Despite the massive nature of the sanctions introduced by Washington on the pretext of "punishing" Libya for the support it allegedly gives to "international terrorism", their scope has not coincided with the administration's initial plans. Washington's attempts to draw its allies into the vicious anti-Libyan campaign have ended actually in total failure.

It was admitted by First Deputy Secretary of State of the United States John Whitehead on his return from a recent tour of Canada and Western Europe that he had failed in inducing the allies to give concrete practical support to the sanctions. Even arms twisting, this favourite method of American diplomacy, was to no avail.

Observers do not rule out, however, the use by the United States of its trump card in the anti-Libyan campaign -- military force. The order to all American citizens to leave Libya is linked here precisely with plans of an armed aggression against that country.

U.S. To Send Carriers

LD030852 Moscow TASS in English 0841 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 3 TASS -- The Reagan administration is planning to continue the campaign of military pressure on Libya. According to the newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, a decision has been taken to send next week to the shores of that country American aircraft carrirs Coral Sea and Saratoga which a few days ago participated in military exercises in the area of the Gulf of Sidra.

The newspaper says that the administration is going to demonstrate intensive gunboat diplomacy in order to exert direct pressure on the Al-Qadhdhafi government. Moreover, for eventuality of an armed incident the Pentagon has already drawn up plans of hitting bomb strikes against a number of structures on Libya's territory.

Stepped-up Security Noted

PM311449 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Unnamed own correspondent dispatch under the "Theme of the Day" rubric: "Situation Around Libya: Amphibious Craft and Ambitions of the United States"]

[Text] Rome -- The military-political situation in the eastern Mediterranean remains extremely tense.

The maneuvers held in the region from 24 through 31 January by the U.S. 6th Fleet, the increased activity noticed at U.S. and NATO bases, and bellicose U.S. statements aimed at Libya -- all this demonstrates that the Reagan administration is not relinquishing its provocative intentions of "teaching a lesson" to Tripoli on the pretext of combating international terrorism.

But current events in the eastern Mediterranean show just who is actually advocating international terrorism, elevated to the rank of state policy.

The aircraft carriers Saratoga and Coral Sea and about 20 other warships are taking part in U.S. maneuvers near Libya's shores. At the same time it has been noticed that protection of the U.S. missile base at Comiso and the air bases at Sigonella and Aviano has been stepped up by the arrival of antiaircraft missile and artillery subunits, which have strengthened the antiaircraft defense system. A 30-meter "security zone" has been created around the Comiso cruise missile base.

Suspicious military preparations occurring in the port of Naples have given the Italian public considerable misgivings. "Four U.S. warships have been turned seaward and overhead the whirring of helicopter rotors is heard all the time," L'UNITA writes. The U.S. command provides no explanations for the military preparations. However, a report in IL MESSAGERO has alerted journalists to an explanation which indicates anything but peaceful intentions on the part of the U.S. military. It was noticed on 27-28 January that a U.S. assault divison was actively preparing to put to sea. The division's flagship is the assault helicopter carrier Guadalcanal. It is accompanied by a destroyer and two support ships. The division is carrying a marine expeditionary battalion capable of conducting "raid"-type operations involving an assault "on an unprepared coast lasting 15 days." The battalion is equipped with "amphibious" tanks plus artillery and helicopters.

In journalistic circles a conscious parallel is being drawn between the provocative patrol by destroyers of the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Gulf of Tonkin 22 years ago and the present "strange" maneuvers by the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Pro-NATO circles in the Apennines (let us note that according to Western press figures there are 239 NATO facilities, bases, establishments, and headquarters located on Italian territory) are trying to make soothing statements and even to whitewash the military "activity of the United States." This is causing surprise, to say the least, among the progressive public of the Mediterranean, which rightly asks: If the U.S. Administration is really interested in a peaceful solution of the Middle East problem, why does it need to hold urgent, unplanned military maneuvers and issue threats against Libya which infringe on its sovereignty and independence?

U.S. Conducts 'War Dance'

LD022205 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Feb 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by "Novosti" political observer Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Text] In various places the world continues to remain unsettled as shown by events this week. In Uganda new authorities have come to power; the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen has come out of a serious internal political crisis with great losses; there is a complex situation in Haiti where the people have come out against the dictator Duvalier; the Israeli Air Force has carried out a raid on the Lebanese town of Sidon -- It is already covered in war scars. A representative from the U.S. State Department verbally condemned this new flare up of violence as he called it. It is in fact an act of state terrorism; but let us take a look at the behavior of the United States itself. The United States has conducted a war dance around Libya. It has carried out -- in an exaggerated and demonstrative manner -- military exercises off the shores of this country. A representative from the U.S. Defense Department described the exercises as an episode in a war of nerves.

And the representative from the State Department added that the United States is showing determination to continue its actions in international waters and air space throughout the world. Europeans, Arabs, the whole world watches this amazing spectacle of political irresponsibility with surprise and condemnation. The U.S. is not even supported by its closest allies.

Deputy Secretary of State Whitehead visited 9 countries in 10 days to explain U.S. aims in Libya to the allies. He explained to them that the so-called sanctions taken by the United States against Libya are not sanctions at all but peaceful measures. Whitehead reported on his return to Washington that it is harder to object to peaceful measures than to sanctions. It is a play on words. For the allies the U.S. policy toward Libya continues to remain unacceptable, but explicable, if one considers that the United States is again trying to play the role of world policeman as well as the role of world judge. Another example of this during the week was the embraces with which Jonas Savimbi, the leader ot the counterrevolutionaries in Angola, was met with in Washington. He was received by the Secretary of State, the Defense Secretary, and the head of the Joint of Chiefs of Staff. The President himself received the ambitious political intriguer, the friend of the South African racists. He received him and said that he wants to be useful to him. [Video shows clip of U.S. Fleet in Mediterranean, and clip of Reagan meeting Savimbi]

MORE REPORTS ON UNITA LEADER'S WASHINGTON VISIT

Reagan Receives 'Terrorist'

LD3'1140 Moscow TASS in English 0540 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Washington 31 Jan (TASS) -- A meeting between President R. Reagan and J. Savimbi, the ringleader of the dissident, anti-Angolan UNITA gangs, has taken place in the White House. Judging by the statements of the participants' themselves, the meeting passed off in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding. "I am satisfied with the talks," Savimbi stated. In his turn, the head of the U.S. Administration launched into fulsome praise for this enemy of the Angolan people, calling him..."Angola's hope." People like Jonas Savimbi said Reagan, "place their hopes in us and we in them." According to White House Deputy Press Secretary Speakes, "Savimbi's activities have greatly impressed" President Reagan and this good impression became "firmer" following their meeting.

Even though the White House talks took place behind closed doors, statements by Washginton officials leave no doubt that concrete questions of rendering U.S. military aid to UNITA were discussed at the talks. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL writes that the Reagan administration has already secretly told Congress of the intention to commence a wide-scale program of military deliveries to the UNITA terrorists. They may, in the end, amount to as much as $300 million worth. Moreover, as a high representative of the administration, speaking after the White House talks let it be clearly understood, official Washington will aid UNITA even if it does not receive congressional approval.

Receiving this out-and-out terrorist and killer in Washington, with honors befitting top statesmen, the Reagan administration, for the umpteenth time, has shown its support for the undeclared war against Angola, its adherence to the policy of state terrorism.

As Jean Sindab, executive director of the Washington Office on Africa, a public organization, stated at a press conference held here, Savimbi's trip is part and parcel of the campaign begun by ultra-right U.S. circles to expand American interference in the affairs of sovereign Angola.

Increased Sabotage Expected

LD021808 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1220 GMT 2 Feb 86

["With a Hope For... Terrorism" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Feb (TASS) -- TASS political observer Sergey Kulik writes:

Jonas Savimbi, the ringleader of the terrorist gang UNITA, who was called the "hope of Angola" by Reagan, intends to use the weapons he obtained during his present visit to the United States to step up sabotage against economic establishments in the People Republic of Angola [PRA] which are of vital importance to it.

"I am not going to swap my sword for a pen" J. Savimbi stated in Washington at a luxuriant ceremony, held for the sake of camouflage and dedicated to publication of the first volume of his poetical scribblings. He immediately made himself clear: "We use the American aid for dealing blows to oil fields in Angola."

In the light of this pronouncement, it becomes clear, what kind of "hopes" the U.S. President places on J. Savimbi, who long since has been pursuing the career of a hired agent of U.S. and RSA special services. With UNITA hands it is being planned to deal a blow to establishments of vital importance to the PRA, which account for a major party of the people's republic income in hard currency. At the same time, the administration, an ardent advocate of the policy of neoglobalism, as in the case now with Libya, does not even take into account the fact that the U.S. companies "Gulf Oil" and "Chevron," which are extracting and prospecting oil in the PRA on mutual profitable terms under agreement with this country's government, will also suffer from UNITA terrorist acts.

Disputing about how much exactly -- 300 or 500 million dollars -- the terrorists should get with their new crimes against the People's Angola, the highly-positioned representatives of the administration and leaders of the "Pro-UNITA lobby" jointly use the "economic stick" against the PRA, whose policies do not suit the White House.

In an unceremonious form, highly-positioned representatives of the administration are attempting to dictate to the PRA government their conditions of "peace," which are designed to infringe upon Angolan sovereignty, to force its people to abandon their own course and to turn this country into a vassal of the RSA and the international capital. Everything speakes in favor of the fact that the United States is preparing for imposition of economic "sanctions" against the PRA.

Thus, for instance, "Conservative Caucus," one of the largest U.S. reactionary organizations, declared a campaign against the firms maintaining business ties with the PRA. "In order to achieve success in diplomacy one has to use pressure" -- C. Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary for African affairs, declared cynically when explaining the principles, upon which Washington relies in its relations with developing states.

This policy of Washington's direct interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Angola, open U.S. siding with the racist RSA, leads to escalation of tension in this region, exacerbation of a dangerous conflict there, which has since long been fraught with a threat for the international ppace and security anyway. [sentence as received] The source of tension, which is exists now in Angola, should be eliminated by political means, in conditions of complete renunciation of the policy of state terrorism and interference into internal affairs of the states of this region.

BUSH SPEECH OUTLINES U.S. 'STATE TERRORISM'

LD021505 Moscow TASS in English 1443 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 2 TASS -- U.S. Vice President George Bush, addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference here, made it clear that the U.S. Administration does not intend to abandon its policy of state terrorism in the international arena and will carry on the course of spreading the arms race into outer space.

"Let me assure you that we will never negotiate away the Strategic Defense Initiative" at the arms control talks with the Soviet Union, said G. Bush. The vice president lauded the "initiative", that is fraught with world catastrophe, as "one of the 20th century's giant steps forward". He also listed the massive programme to "rebuild" America, which has gobbled up almost two trillion dollars by now, among the highest achievements of the present administration.

"We started the production line on the B-1. We saved the MX Missile. We stood firm with our European allies, proceeding with the installation of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles. We are well on our way to our goal of a 600 ship Navy. Our other Armed Forces have been beefed up", G. Bush went on with enumerating the merits of the U.S. Administration.

He listed among such "merits" also the moves to rebuild the Central Intelligence Agency, the chief espionage and subversive establishment of the United States. G. Bush described its "knights of the cloak and dagger" who won ill-fame by staging coups d'etat, assassinating foreign politicians, conducting criminal experiments on people and terrorist operations, as "patriotic individuals" "who had risked their lives for our country". G. Bush called this instrument of U.S. institutionalized terrorism inasmuch as bandit formations, knocked together and armed by the CIA, that wage the armed struggle against lawful governments of foreign states, as "freedom fighters".

"Your cause is our cause" were the words with which the Vice President addressed Jonas Savimbi, ringleader of the Angolan bands and CIA stooge, who was a "distinguished guest" at the Conservative Political Action Conference. It follows from G. Bush's remarks that the same words are equally applied by the administration to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and former Somocistas with whose hands the Unites States wages the undeclared war on Nicaragua. The administration is ready to allocate them tens and hundreds of millions of dollars in new funds under its commitment to the so-called "neoglobalism" concept.

REAGAN DECREE ON FIRST ROUND SPENDING CUTS NOTED

LD012106 Moscow TASS in English 2054 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Washington February 1 TASS -- President Reagan issued a decree instructing a number of federal departments to cut their expenditures by a total of nearly 12 billion dollars. The aim of this step is to lessen the continually growing deficit of the budget which reached in the past fiscal year the record level of 211 billion dollars. Many experts are of the opinion that such measures will not yield the expected results, above all for the reason that the administration is not going to give up the programmes of large-scale military preparations. And the huge and constantly growing expenditures on those preparations are one of the main reasons behind the chronic imbalance of the federal budget. It is remarkable that having issued the decree on budgetary cuts on Saturday, the President, in another radio address to the nation, confirmed on the same day that he will be insisting on a steady increase of the military appropriations.

U.S. PLANS TO INCREASE DEFENSE ALLOCATIONS

LD030941 Moscow TASS in English 0832 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 3 TASS -- The U.S. Administration is planning to fix the ceiling of its military spending in the next fiscal year at 320.3 billion dollars. According to THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper's information on the 1987 draft federal budget to be submitted to Congress by President Ronald Reagan this week, the administration intends increasing arms spending during the next five years while curtailing social programmes.

MILITARY SPENDING CRUSHES SOCIAL PROGRAMS

LD311906 Moscow TASS in English 1831 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 31 TASS -- TASS news analyst Ivan Ablamov writes:

Speaking in Washington at the Conservative Political Action Conference President Ronald Reagan did not conceal his irritation over the striving of the Democrats to reduce the military budget and "use the funds for more of their social experiments".

Why is the U.S. Administration so nervous? It is nervous since despite all its assurances of "economic prosperity", the state of affairs in the U.S. economy is far from that expected by the administration. The arms race assumed such monstrous proportions that it literally crushed the American budget, escalated its deficit to 220,000 million dollars last year and triggered off a torrent of demands at the U.S. Congress that the budget, including military, expenditures, be reduced. This is specifically one of the aims of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings amendment.

There is something for the government to be thrown into a flutter.

Since March the U.S. Administration has been taking different steps to enliven the economy. In a bid to avoid big reductions in budget, including military, expenditures, it started bringing down the dollar value rate which has dropped by now approximately by 25 per cent. U.S. leading allies were drawn to that. Reduction in the dollar value rate, the government thought, was to enhance competitiveness of American products and their exports, to facilitate the position of the industry and agriculture, to give additional tax receipts, and, in the final account, to reduce the trade and budget deficit.

But Washington was in for a shock. According to the data, just published by the Department of Commerce, in December the deficit of the balance of trade of the United States did not decrease but went up by 27 per cent as compared with November. It exceeded 148,000 million dollars over the whole year of 1985. Labour productivity dropped in the fourth quarter of last year. Over the whole year it increased, if one may say so, by 0.3 per cent. The United States is losing to its rivals in the "trade warfare".

All that affected the overall standing of the U.S. economy. In December the governmental index of the leading economic indices increased, as was noted spitefully by the AP news agency, by far less than Washington expected. And this means there would be far less tax receipts.

In other words, the U.S. Administration's efforts did not produce the desired results. The economy, as before, faces a serious budget deficit problem.

In the opinion of experts, in Congress one should expect growing pressure on the government in favor of reduction of budget and, consequently, military expenditures. Representatives of both parties are not attracted by a further sharp reduction in social allocations, truncated as they are, particularly in view of the mid-term elections to Congress due this year. Therefore there is reason for the U.S. Administration to be nervous and to attack liberals who unrealistically view the military budget.

OPERATION 'RED FLAG' TARGETED AGAINST USSR

LD311332 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Operation "Red Flag" has started this week in the Nevada desert. The war game will continue till 15 February; 21 types of aircraft from all four United States military branches are engaged in it.

Well, military exercises are common practice in many countries, however, what is taking place in Nevada today is very specific. The participating sides are not the blue and the yellow, they are not the grey and the orange. No, the two sides fighting each other in Nevada are the blue and the red. In other words, the United States and its allies are waging a war against the Soviet Union and its allies, which are red aggressors.

Here is what Colonel John (Madden) said about these war games: the red aggressors are specially trained American pilots who fly and fight like their Soviet counterparts. We have 40 aggressor aircraft and pilots. According to the games scenario 40,000 Soviet troops have attacked a friendly nation, the Colonel said. You may say there is nothing unusual for the Americans in the event. In schools and colleges students very often hold debates in a similar way. There are television programs and movies about a Soviet invasion of America. There are even computerized games for both children and adults on how American patriots fight Soviet aggressors.

The question arises: What is the purpose of the campaign? Let us recall that in the early thirties Nazi Germany initiated large scale military preparations under the pretext of defending itself from an alleged threat from the east. The consequences of that anti-Soviet campaign are well known. More than 50 million people were killed in World War II, unleashed by Nazi Germany. At present the fate of humanity is at stake. The current anti-Soviet campaign in the United States is aimed at misleading the public and stimulating the arms race, which is equally dangerous for the American people and all other nations. The campaign runs counter to the spirit of Geneva and understandings reached on developing Soviet-American cooperation, mutual confidence and dialogue.

Officials in Washington claim that they cannot ban television programs and movies spreading fantastic accusations with regard to the Soviet Union. This cannot be said, however, about what is taking place in the Nevada desert. Combat pilots from all four branches of United States Armed Forces attack airfields that resemble Soviet targets and troops wearing Soviet uniform. The operation "Red Flag" is aimed not at promoting mutual trust between Soviet and American peoples but at cultivating hostility toward the Soviet Union and this is done on the administration's orders. The commander in chief is in the White House.

ANTI-SOVIETISM IN U.S. CONGRESS SCORED

PM301000 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent L. Koryavin dispatch: "The Capitol: Alignment With the Right"]

[Text] Washington -- no need to check the time. Everything goes like a chronometer. As soon as an improvement in the international situation emerges in the world, those forces in the United States that are seeking to hamper this process spring into action "right on the dot." Each step toward improving Soviet-U.S. relations immediately triggers a wave of anti-Sovietism in the United States. This trend can also be observed inside the capitol.

First and foremost the reactionary forces in the capitol oppose disarmament processes. They not only halted Senate ratification of the Salt II treaty but are making efforts to wreck the accords reached and ratified by Congress and are trying to hamper the process of talks currently taking place in Geneva. Their tactics are old and stereotyped -- pinning everything on the USSR.

The legislators for lawlessness pushed legislation through Congress binding the White House to present an annual report on the Soviet Union's observance of its treaty commitments under the agreements in the disarmament sphere. This document is called upon to "legalize the falsification" with which, as observers point out, each administration "report," which traditionally trots out a selection of unproven and groundless complaints against the USSR, is imbued.

Militarist circles have many placemen in congress and it is also steeped in extreme right-wing elements. With the administration they coordinate their activity aimed at wrecking disarmament processes. For instance, they strive in every possible way to erode the provisions of the ABM treaty, which is of fundamental importance for preventing an arms race in space. The military-industrial complex "lobby" within the capitol helps to "legalize" the production of "star wars" weapons and pushes extensive militarist programs through congress.

In order to "justify" the course of militarization these circles in Congress are whipping up a fierce anti-Soviet campaign, deliberately distorting reality and groundlessly claiming that the USSR has "overtaken" the United States in terms of arms parameters. And Senators such as Helms and Garn do not hide their anti-Sovietism. Garn was one of the authors of the draft bill presented to Congress demanding that the allocation of credits to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries be "limited." This "gallant crew" strive in every possible way to prevent the USSR being granted most-favored nation status and certain people demand that trade links with the Soviet Union be cut off altogether. In a fit of anti-Soviet hysteria the authors of the draft bill even went so far as to say that "forced labor" exists in the USSR and goods reaching the U.S. market from there are thus produced by "slaves."

A notorious "human rights" campaign is also being whipped up under the capitol's vaults. This is deliberately done by the same placement of military and right-wing circles who thereby strive to distract the legislators' attention away from urgent problems and divert Congress from resolving disarmament questions. Both houses adopted the utterly false and hypocritical Resolution 186, which expresses congress' "opinion" on "human rights." Facts are equally crudely distorted in other of the legislative organ's documents which express "support" for anti-Soviet elements, all kinds of renegades, and the Afghan rabble that has found refuge in the United States.

The theme of Afghanistan arouses a particularly large number of speculative judgments in the capitol. Thus, on the pretext of "concern" about the situation in Afghanistan, Resolution 304 attempted to legalize the blatant U.S. interference in the internal affairs of this sovereign state and substantiate the U.S. "right" to give support to counterrevolutionary forces in Afghanistan.

In the United States, including in the Congress, a great fuss is made about terrorism. Senator Leahy submitted a proposal to draw up and conclude an international treaty on combating terrorism, but excluded from its future participants was... the Soviet Union. This figure did not even dream of proposing to hand over to the USSR two criminals -- Brazinskas senior and Brazinskas junior, who hijacked a Soviet aircraft, killed a stewardess, and found refuge in the United States under the wing of U.S. "legislation." Nor in his "document" did he mention state terrorism, which Washington has elevated to the rank of its foreign policy, nor the actions when the U.S. state encourages acts of terrorism by its special services with regard to individuals, including Soviet citizens.

The arsenal of anti-Soviet actions taken in Congress is extremely wide. They include a hysterical campaign of spy-mania, in which "red agents" are seen round every corner, including the corridors of the capitol. They also include support for provocative acts against Soviet citizens working or temporarily located on U.S. territory. Congress frequently turns into a political farce, dragging dubious characters onto the stage to give "evidence" to various committees or holding anti-Soviet exhibitions, as Congressmen Jack Kemp did, for instance.

Documents toughening the conditions imposed for sojourns by Soviet citizens in the United States are also adopted in Congress. For instance, in addition to personnel at the Soviet Embassy in Washington and other Soviet foreign establishments, the movements of Soviet officials at the UN Secretariat -- an international organ on U.S. territory -- have also been restricted. Here is another example. Certain legislators went so far as to submit to Congress an official proposal that "the Soviet Union should not be officially congratulated on its national holiday" -- the day of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

That is the "breadth of vision" of the anti-Soviet-minded members of Congress... they deliverately poison the atmosphere in Congress. Inundating the legislators' desks with "resolutions" filled with malice and falsehoods, these individuals strive to hamper the improvement of the international climate and the process of improving Soviet-U.S. relations.

CHINA

CHINESE SHELLING OF SRV AREAS REPORTED

PM021309 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Feb 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Chinese Shelling of SRV Territory"]

[TExt] Hanoi, 1 Feb -- The Vietnamese central press reports that on 28 January Chinese artillery subjected 44 population points in Ha Tuyen, Hoang Lien Son, and Lai Tao provinces up to 8 km from the border line to heavy shelling. Simultaneously Chinese infantry subunits launched attacks aimed at capturing a number of elevations of Vietnamese territory in Vi Xuyen district [uyezd]. The attacks were beaten off by Vietnamese People's Army forces.

GROWTH OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE IN PRC NOTED

LD302106 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] In China, more than 17 million people are presently occupied in the sphere of private enterprise, the extent of which is rapidly expanding. This was announced by the XINHUA agency.

The PRC government encourages the further development of private enterprise. Articles frequently appear in the Chinese press calling on a specific group of leading workers and party and state organs not to obstruct the activity of private traders, but rather to cooperate with them as much as possible, providing them with raw material and credits and to create favorable conditions for the extension of their activity.

SUPSOV CHAIRMAN TOLKUNOV RECEIVES PRC JOURNALIST

OW290611 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] An Gang, editor-in-chief of the Chinese JINGJI SHIBAO [ECONOMICS TIMES], visited the Soviet Union 21-27 January at the invitation of IZVESTIYA. During his visit, the Chinese guest familiarized himself with the editorial work of IZVESTIYA, TRUD, and EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA. He was received by Tolkunov, chairman of the council of Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, as well as by leaders of the Soviet State Planning Committee, the Soviet Radio and TV Bureau, the Economics Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and the USSR Union of Journalists. He also met with activists of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Scociety headed by chairman of its central board Tikhovinskiy. Besides Moscow An Gang and other journalists also visited Riga, Minsk, and Kiev.

INDIAN RALLY, OFFICIALS PRAISE GORBACHEV PROPOSAL

LD010848 Moscow TASS in English 0826 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, February 1 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Latyshev reports:

A high appraisal of the new Soviet peace initiatives on nuclear disarmament has been given by the participants in a public rally here held on the occasion of the adoption of the New Delhi declaration. The rally was sponsored by the All-India Peace and Solidarity Organisation.

The New Delhi declaration, which was signed a year ago by the leaders of six nonaligned states, is a document of tremendous importance for preserving peace and security on earth. It has been an important milestone in the efforts of the peace forces of the world for preventing the threat of a nuclear catastrophe hanging over mankind, said India's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Kocheril Roman Narayanan.

An end to a further build up of the arms race, ensuring peaceful coexistence of states with different socio-political systems is the sole alternative to nuclear death, he stressed. The Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva, which has been a turning point in contemporary history, has contributed in a large measure to a relaxation of international tensions. The leaders of the two great powers have firmly declared in Geneva that nuclear weapons race should not lead to military confrontation and destruction of human civilization. As far as India is concerned, the minister stressed, the Republic has no nuclear weapons and does not intend to develop them.

The fresh Soviet peace proposals contained in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on questions of disarmament, K.R. Narayanan said, are positive and deserve a most serious consideration. We support these fair and concrete proposals of the Soviet Union, which are close to the provisions contained in the New Delhi declaration, and believe that they should be most carefully examined by the U.S. Administration, he said. The Indian minister also pointed to the inadmissibility of spreading the arms race into outer space and called for a freeze on the nuclear arsenals.

Professor Rasheeduddin Khan, a prominent public figure of India, has expressed support for the USSR's fresh peaceful proposals on curbing the arms race and eliminating the threat of fear of a nuclear catastrophe. He stressed that unlike the USA the Soviet Union has positively responded to the New Delhi declaration and considered in putting forward its fresh peace initiatives also the wishes of the nonaligned countries. Rasheeduddin Khan pointed to the need for mobilizing broad international public circles in the fight for peace and security in the world.

Archbishop Mar-Gregorios of the Orthodox Church in India pointed out in his speech the direct connection between the unrestrained nuclear weapons race and hunger, privations and socio-economic backwardness, the conditions in which hundreds of millions of people live. The weapons reace being built up by the Western countries and the criminal plans of the USA for a militarisation of outer space are manifestations of antediluvian mentality, which is absolutely inadmissible in this nuclear age. One cannot strengthen one's own security now at the expense of security of other nations, he said. The fresh Soviet peace proposals are directed not only at ensuring disarmament, but also at improving the living standards of the whole of mankind. Mar-Gregorios urged all people of goodwill to support the Soviet peace policy.

PRAVDA REPORTS ON KUZNETSOV TOUR IN INDIA

PM311641 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Soviet Parliamentarians' Stay in India"]

[Text] Banglore, 29 Jan -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by V.V. Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soivet Presidium, which is in India, visited the city of Bangalore, administrative center of the south Indian state of Karnataka.

The delegation called at the "Hindustan Aeronautics" state corporation's aviation plant and at the "Hindustan Machine Tools" state association's machine-building enterprise and clock and watch plant. V.V. Kuznetsov conversed with workers at these enterprises. The delegation head conveyed to them greetings from Soviet working people. He declared that in today's complex international situation it is the duty of all peace-loving forces to wage a struggle to avert the threat of nuclear war and terminate the arms race.

K.S. Shrinisavan, who spoke on behalf of the aviation plant's workers, said: "We do not want a war and we express solidarity with Soviet people who are upholding the cause of peace. We wholeheartedly support the latest peace proposals by Soviet leader M.S. Gorbachev."

The Soviet parliamentarians visited the state legislative assembly and attended sessions of its upper and lower chambers. The deputies warmly welcomed the Soviet guests. Representatives of different parties made special statements in support of the further strengthening of Indo-Soviet relations in all spheres, including ties between the two countries' parliaments.

During a meeting with the legislative assembly's leadership, V.V. Kuznetsov stressed that parliaments in the Soviet Union and other peace-loving countries experience great anxiety in connection with the continuing international tension. We spent several days in India, met various statesmen, politicians, and public figures, and became convinced that identical concern is also displayed in your country. People in the Soviet Union highly value India's support for the proposals aimed at the strengthening of peace and against the arms race, primarily the nuclear arms race.

The Soviet delegation head drew the attention of the legislative assembly's leadership to the package of new Soviet peace initiatives aimed at the elimination of nuclear arms.

The Soviet delegation met with the state's Chief Minister R.K. Hegde. Welcoming the Soviet parliamentarians, he said that Indo-Soviet friendship is unbreakable. It does not fluctuate from day to day, and it based on the firm foundation of the sincere desire of both countries' peoples to develop and strengthen to the utmost their bilateral ties.

Our people are grateful to the USSR for the assistance it has given India in various spheres. Our countries share common goals and a common view situation. India and the USSR advocate peace, peaceful coexistence, noninterference in internal affairs, and cooperation. As a developing country, India is particularly interested in lasting peace on earth. This is why we have always supported and do support all the USSR's constructive proposals aimed at curbing the arms race and averting the threat of thermonuclear war.

In this connection, the chief minister emphasized the particular importance of the latest peace initiatives advanced by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. "But the other side's reaction to these important proposals is disappointing," he said. It is evident that the United States is not interested in the implementation of these initiatives, insofar as U.S. monopolies make fortunes from the nuclear arms race and the export of arms, thus creating tension in different parts of the world. The USSR and India will continue their struggle for peace, for disarmament, and for economic development. The most diverse strata of the Indian people highly value the relations of friendship with the Soviet Union and wish that they develop and strengthen further, R.K. Hegde said.

The head of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation conveyed Soviet people's warm feelings to the population of Karnataka state. He emphasized that Soviet-Indian relations are built on the principles of good-neighborliness and mutual respect, and are constantly enriched by real meaning and diverse cooperation in all spheres. This policy corresponds with the interests of not only the two countries' peoples but also of the world community. Soviet-Indian relations have become a reliable factor of peace and stability. The two countries' interaction is particularly important now, when the most immediate task is to deflect the threat of nuclear war from mankind, prevent an arms race in space, and safeguard peace. We became convinced that people in India are well aware of the USSR's latest propsals aimed at terminating the arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons altogether. The time has now come when it is necessary for everyone to rise to the defense of peace and apply all efforts to avert the nuclear threat. India enjoys great prestige in the international arena as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and makes a weighty contribution to the movement for nuclear disarmament, he said.

The Soviet parliamentarians called on state governor, A.N. Bannerjee.

The delegation had a meeting with S.N. Rerikh, well known Russian painter and public figure, who lives in Bangalore.

The delegation returned to Delhi on 28 January.

PRAVDA ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUCCESSES IN AFGHANISTAN

PM291559 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 86 First Edition p 6

[N. Yakubov article: "Afghanistan Is Fighting and Building"]

[Text] The implementation of antifeudal national-democratic transformations and the turning of Afghanistan into a developed state constitute one of the immediate tasks of the country's development. The program document "On the April Revolution's National-Democratic Nature and Its Immediate Tasks Under the Present Conditions," recently published in Kabul, speaks of this in particular.

Prior to the revolution, which took place in April 1978, Afghanistan was one of the world's poorest states. Agriculture, the main sphere of material production, was distinguished by extreme backwardness and by the domination of feudal and even pre-feudal relations. Industry was highly underdeveloped. Over 90 percent of the population was unable to read or write. One-third of the children died before reaching the age of 5 years. Average life expectancy was below 45 years. There was just 1 doctor for every 12,000 inhabitants.

The tasks of boosting the republic's economy have to be completed under exceptionally complex conditions. The heavy burden of countless problems inherited from former regimes and of mistakes committed during the first years of the revolution can be felt. But the main cause of the hardships is the undeclared war against the new power which has been unleashed by imperialist circles with help from the external and domestic reaction.

"Our achievements in the economic sphere are still modest. But we are justified in talking about them today because they have been scored under complex conditions," Babrak Karmal noted. According to preliminary data for Afghanistan's economic and social development in 1981-1985, the country's national income has exceeded the level reached prior to the April Revolution both in total volume and per capita .

Measures are being taken to restore and resume operations at enterprises that have been destroyed. Supplies of raw materials and energy resources have improved. Industrial output as a whole has increased by one-fourth. The output of electricity, natural gas, cement, and nitric fertilizers is greater than before the revolution.

Gross agricultural output has increased. This was helped by the implementation of land and water resources reform, as a result of which thousands of peasant families were given land and were released from repaying burdensome debts to feudal landowners and money-lenders amounting to 31 billion afganis. Some 60,000 metric tons of mineral fertilizers, 4,500 metric tons of improved seed wheat, 6,800 metric tons of cotton seed, and a large quanitity of equipment were distributed among peasants in the last 6 months alone. The first machine and tractor stations have been set up. Work is being done to protect plants against parasites and to combat animal diseases. The state is helping to restore existing irrigation systems and to build new ones.

Domestic and foreign trade are developing successfully. Afghanistan's foreign trade turnover has increased from 740 million dollars in 1977 to 1.6 billion dollars in 1985, which is more than double the prerevolutionary level.

Social conditions are improving, and the people's living standards are arising. The average wage of workers in state enterprises has increased almost 2.5 times in the last few years.

Impressive successes have been scored in the development of health care services, culture, and education. Last year alone the number of school pupils increased by 15 percert to reach 685,000, and 122 new schools opened in 1985. More than 23,000 students are being trained in higher education establishments and technical colleges, and over 10,000 in vocational and technical schools. More than one million people have learned to read and write at classes for the elimination of illiteracy.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are rendering substantial help toward Afghanistan's development. Soviet-Afghan political and economic ties, which originated under V.I. Lenin, have an extensive history and offer a graphic example of good-neighborly relations.

With the Soviet Union's assistance, Afghanistan has created its gas and chemical industry and the country's energy base, has commissioned machine building and motor vehicle repairs enterprises, has constructed more than 1,500 km of hard-surface highways and major irrigation complexes, and has opened the door to higher and secondary education establishments. Tens of thousands of Afghan specialists and skilled workers have been trained.

Soviet-Afghan relations were given an additional boost following the April Revolution. More than 50 projects of vital importance to the country were erected during this relatively brief period with the USSR's help. They include motor vehicle transport enterprises, the "LOTOS" satellite communications station, bread plants in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif, the Hayraton-Hazar-e Sharif power transmission line, the Kabul polyclinic, the Jalalabad canning plant, the road and railroad bridge across the Amu Darya River, the storage terminal at the port of Hayraton, and others.

The Khvajeh-Gugerdak and Jar Quduq gas fields in the northern part of the republic were opened up and commissioned with the Soviet Union's participation. The gas that is extracted is being used at the Mazar-e Sharif fertilizers plant for the production of urea which is vital in agriculture, and is also being exported. Projects constructed in Afghanistan with the USSR's assistance produce about 75 percent of the state sector's industrial output.

Commodity turnover between our countries has grown considerably over the last few years. In exchange for Soviet machines, equipment, petroleum products, and consumer goods, the DRA supplies the Soviet Union with cotton, wool, hides, gas, dried fruit, citrus fruit, oil-producing seeds, and other commodities.

While the USSR and the other socialist countries support Afghanistan in the solution of difficult economic problems, soon after the April Revolution the United States and its allies started to reduce, and later cancelled altogether, all economic aid to the young republic. Essentially, the Western countries have imposed an economic blockade.

Contrary to the UN Charter and principles, the United States exerts unprecedented pressure on specialized international organizations so as to prevent economic assistance to Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries, only because it refuses to toe the line of imperialist policy.

Further, U.S. special services are particularly urging the dushmans to destroy economic installations. All this is being done under the slogan of "defending democracy" and "concern for the Afghan people's interests."

Support for the counterrevolution is generous. The United States has already appropriated 1.5 billion dollars to arm, train, and maintain the numberous gangs committing crimes on Afghan soil.

Despite the intrigues by the domestic and external reaction, however, the process of revolutionary transformations in Afghanistan is gaining strength. Life confirms that the DRA, relying on the support of the Soviet Union, the other socialist community countries, and the progressive states in the world, is not only successfully defending itself in the struggle against the counterrevolution, but is also consistently accomplishing the socioeconomic tasks set by the national-democratic and antifeudal revolution.

SOKOLOV RECEIVES GDR DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER

PM311825 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Feb 86 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Friendly Meeting"]

[Text] On 30 January Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, received Lieutenant General H. Bruenner, GDR deputy minister for national defense and chief of the National People's Army Political Main Administration.

Colonel General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, participated in the conversation, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION TALKS HELD WITH BULGARIA

Marchuk, Lukanov Sign Agreement

PM311105 Moscow PRAVDA under the general heading "Conversations Held"]

[Text] On 22 January, G. I. Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, received a Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. During the meeting measures were signed in the sphere of bilateral scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and Bulgaria aimed at the practical implementation of the comprehensive program for the CEMA members' scientific and technical progress through the year 2000 and the further strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

Antonov, Lukanov Meet

PM311201 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Jan 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Conversations Held"]

[Text] On 23 January a meeting took place in Moscow between A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and A. Lukanov, cochairman of the Soviet-Bulgarian intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

The meeting examined progress in the fulfillment of measures to implement the long-term program for cooperation between the two countries to the year 2000 and the fulfillment of the accords reached at meetings between the Soviet and Bulgarian heads of government in October and December 1985 in light of the tasks stemming from the comprehensive program for the CEMA members' scientific and technical progress. There was a discussion of the further cooperation between Soviet and Bulgarian associations, enterprises, and organizations.

D. Zhulev, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR, took part in the meetings.

BULGARIA ESTABLISHES NEW COUNCILS, MINISTRIES

PM291322 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "At Bulgarian National Assembly Session"]

[Text] Sofia, 28 Jan -- The Bulgarian National Assembly session held here examined the question of structural changes to the republic's Council of Ministers. A resolution was adopted on the creation of an economic council, social council, and council for science, culture, and education to be attached to the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. These councils, the resolution states, will head certain sectors and spheres and coordinate the activity of the ministries comprising them.

It was decided to transform the State Planning Committee into a State Plan Commission, to transform the State Committee for Science and Technological Progress into a State Committee for Research and Technology, and to abolish a number of ministries. A Ministry of Trade, which will manage domestic and foreign trade and material resources, was created.

A number of personnel changes to the Bulgarian Council of Ministers took place on the basis of a session resolution.

The session was addressed by T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council.

PRAVDA REPORTS TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

PM311621 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Agreements Signed"]

[Text] The trade talks between Soviet and SFRY Government delegations ended in Moscow on 29 January. Agreements were signed on reciprocal goods shipments between the two countries in 1986-1990, as was a protocol on trade turnover in 1986.

It is planned to increase trade turnover in 1986-1990 and to expand reciprocal deliveries of machines and equipment, primarily in sectors ensuring the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, including new modern types of machine-building articles.

The documents were signed by B.I. Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade, and M. Bojanic, SFRY federal secretary for foreign trade.

The signing ceremony was attended by I.V. Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; B. Srebric, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council; and M. Drulovic, SFRY ambassador to the USSR.

HUNGARIAN DEFENSE MINISTER TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

PM021321 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Feb 86 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "On a Visit to the Soviet Union"]

[Text] At the invitation of Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, F. Karpati, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and Hungarian minister of defense, will pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union in the first half of February 1986.

FRENCH ECONOMIC MINISTER BEREGOVOY VISITS MOSCOW

Aristov Receives Beregovoy

LD311752 Moscow in French to France and Belgium 1930 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Aristov, the Soviet foreign trade minister, had a meeting on the 30 January with Beregovoy, the minister of economy, finance, and budget of France, who is paying a working visit to the USSR. The parties expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and examined the possibility of developing it. Raimond, the French ambassador to the USSR was also present at the meeting.

Received by Shevardnadze, Arkhipov

LD311532 Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 31 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, today received the French Minister of Economy, Finance and Budget Pierre Beregovoy.

The French minister presented a return message from the French President Francois Mitterrand to the message by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev in connection with the new Soviet foreign policy initiatives. He noted that the Soviet proposals were perceived in France as bold and far reaching, and were being studied with a positive interest.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed that the initiatives contained in Mikhail Gorbachev's January 15 statement most seriously take into account the security interests of all states, nuclear and non-nuclear. The Soviet Union not only suggests a programme of a stage-by-stage reduction and liquidation of nuclear and all other weapons of mass annihilation but also takes practical steps leading to the attainment of this aim.

The conversation was of a constructive nature.

On the same day Pierre Beregovoy was received by First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Ivan Arkhipov. They discussed questions of the state and prospects of the development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

AFP on Talks With Shevardnadze

AU311912 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Moscow, Jan 31 (AFP) -- France today rejected part of the latest Soviet disarmament plans which would ban the modernisation of British and French nuclear weapons, in a meeting here between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and French Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy.

In a statement after the meeting Mr Beregovoy said, however, that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals to destroy all nuclear arms by the year 2000 were "in the right direction".

Mr. Beregovoy said France favoured a "global and regional balance of forces at the lowest levels possible." He said this should also be verifiable.

He added, however, that the French independent nuclear arsenal "has to be dissuasive" and make use of technical progress, so rejecting part of the Gorbachev plan calling for a non-modernization of British and French forces.

Mr. Beregovoy said his meeting with Mr. Shevardnadze had been "very warm" while TASS said it was "talks of a constructive nature."

The French minister also met the new Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Boris Aristov and First Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov as well as senior Soviet banking officials.

French sources said that the talks concentrated on the possibility of developing bilateral trade as well as world money problems.

COMMENTARY VIEWS FRANCE, UK WEAPONS MODERNIZATION

LD010013 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Sergey Sayenko commentary]

[Text] Britain intends installing 64 new Javelin missiles in its nuclear submarines under the program for modernizing its nuclear force. Here's commentary by Sergey Sayenko, and this is what he writes:

The Javelin missiles mark the start of the program. In the near future, 16 more sophisticated United States-made nuclear missiles, Trident II, are to be installed in four British submarines. France has also begun installing missiles with multiple warheads in its submarines. France doubled its arsenal of submarine-launched nuclear missiles having launched its inflexible submarine carrying 16 missiles last year, each having 6 warheads. France has doubled its number of submarine-based nuclear missiles. By the end of the modernization program Britain and France will have more than a tnousand warheads. The present nuclear potential of the two countries, however, cannot be disregarded.

In this connection, the Soviet Union has on many occasions proposed to the European nuclear powers that bilateral talks be opened on the issue of nuclear balance in Europe. The Soviet Union said it's prepared to give detailed consideration to the security interests of Britain and France. These talks are not an end in itself as far as the Soviet Union is concerned. In his statement of 15th January, Mikhail Gorbachev proposed a step by step program for ridding the earth, naturally including Europe, from all nuclear weapons until the end of the century. Under that program over the next 5-8 years, the Soviet Union and the United States are to reach and implement an agreement on scrapping their medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. At the same time, according to the Soviet proposal, the United States and the Soviet Union should reduce their missiles capable of reaching their respective territories by 50 percent.

Meanwhile, Britain and France will pledge not to build up their nuclear forces. The Soviet Union proposes that by the year 1990 the other nuclear powers, including Britain and France, join nuclear disarmament so that by the year 2000, nuclear weapons are banished from the face of the earth.

The Soviet plan for total nuclear disarmament accounts for the security interests of all nations, including the nations of Europe. Naturally the implementation of that plan will require active participation not only of the USSR and the United States but other nations as well, including primarily the nuclear powers.

FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER MARCHAIS QUOTED

LD311721 Moscow TASS in English 1703 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Paris, January 31 TASS -- It is only by casting votes for Communist candidates that it is possible to frustrate plans of the French right-wing forces to regain power after the coming elections to the National Assembly. Only thus it is possible to prevent the planned cooperation of the right-wing with the Socialists. This was stated by General Secretary of the French Communist Party Georges Marchais, speaking at a mass meeting in Mureaux, Yevelines Department. He set forth the Communists' election programme, their concrete proposals aimed at solving France's main socio-economic problems, primarily unemployment. To vote for the Communist Party means to vote for employment, said Georges Marchais.

CPSU GREETS IRISH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS

PM311713 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 86 First Edition p 1

["To the 19th Communist Party of Ireland Congress" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee ardently greets the delegates to the 19th Congress of the fraternal Communist Party of Ireland and all Irish Communists.

Being the exponent of the interests of the working class and all working people of Ireland, Communists work consistently and selflessly for the social, economic, and political rights of the Irish people, for a just and democratic solution of the problem of Northern Ireland, for a peaceful and neutral republic, for the unity of the Irish people.

The Communist Party of Ireland is known in the world communist and working class movement for its loyalty to the ieals of Marxism-Leninism, its uncompromising struggle against anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. Soviet Communists know and highly value that.

Your congress has assembled while the world is passing through a crucial moment. The peoples demand with growing insistence that the threat of nuclear war be eliminated. For this end even more consistent and vigorous efforts of all anti war and democratic forces are required -- efforts to prevent the transfer of the arms race to outer space, and to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons and the revival of international detente.

Advocating genuine neutrality and independence of the country, opposing its involvement in military alliances, the Communist Party of Ireland makes an important contribution to the common struggle of safeguarding peace on Earth.

We wish Irish Communists success in the struggle to translate into life the aspirations of the Irish people, for the interests of the Irish working people, for a peaceful life, democracy and social progress.

Let friendship between the Communists of Ireland and the Soviet Union develop and grow stronger for the benefit of the peoples of both countries!

Long live the Communist Party of Ireland!

Let there be peace all over the world!

CPSU Central Committee

ENVOY EXPLAINS GORBACHEV PROPOSALS IN BELGIUM

LD311535 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1140 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Brussels, 31 Jan (TASS) -- Sergey Nikitin, the USSR ambassador in Belgium, and Anatoloy Slyusar, a special representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry, who has gone to Brussels to explain the points of the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on 15 January, 1986, have held talks at the Belgian Foreign Ministry. The Belgian side displayed great interest in the proposals put forward in the statement on the total and universal elimination of nuclear weapons and on other aspects of disarmament and improving the international climate.

Meetings also took place with Edward Leemans, president of the Senate of the Belgian Parliament; Frank Swaelen, chairman of the Christian Social Party; Guy Spitaels, chairman of the Socialist Party (Francophones); Louis van Geyt, chairman of the Belgian Communist Party; and also with Louis Tobback, chairman of the parliamentary faction of the Socialist Party (Flemish).

STUKALIN NEW ENVOY TO GREECE; ANDROPOV TRANSFERRED

LD311830 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Moscow, January 31 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has appointed Viktor Stukalin the ambassador of the USSR to the Hellenic Republic.

Viktor Stukalin was born in 1927. He received a higher education. He has been working in the diplomatic service since 1964, holding a number of responsible positions on the staff of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and abroad. In 1980-1985 he was deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has relieved Igor Andropov of the duties of the ambassador of the USSR to the Hellenic Republic in view of transfer to another job.

KORNIYENKO-LED DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

LD021449 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 2, IRNA -- The Soviet first deputy foreign Minister, Georgiy Korniyenko heading a political [words indistinct] here Sunday.

On his arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, Korniyenko said that the Soviet leadership believes that expansion of political contacts between Iran and the Soviet Union would be to the benefit of the two countries. Korniyenko said the visit is in continuation of the growing relations between the two countries.

The Soviet delegation headed by Korniyenko is here at the invitation of Iran's acting foreign minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. The Soviet deputy foreign minister [words indistinct] visit here will hold talks with Iranian high ranking officials on issues of mutual interests.

Expressing satisfaction with his being here, Korniyenko said that it would be better to comment on the objectives of his visit at the end of the visit.

The Iranian acting foreign minister said that due to the long border and history of co-existence between Iran and the Soviet Union, Korniyenko has been invited for talks on expansion of ties between the two countries. He further expressed hope that such talks would be in the interest of the two countries and help them establish better relations.

SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TRAVELS TO YAR

Maltsev Arrives for Visit

GF311744 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Viktor Maltsev, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, arrived in Sanaa today on visit to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] to last several days.

In a statement to SABA', the Soviet official expressed pleasure at visiting our country and meeting with its officials. He noted that his talks will deal with bilateral relations and other current issues on the agenda. He added that he highly appreciates the relations between the two friendly countries which have been strengthened by the friendship treaty recently signed by the two countries. He stated that his talks will also deal with the current world situation.

The Soviet official said: Our views and stands are identical on a number of issues. What is important is to strengthen the joint and mutual understanding with the aim of forging ahead together.

He added: I am visiting your country for the first time, which imparts additional significance to this visit on my part. I will meet with YAR officials to discuss relations between the YAR and the USSR and other international issues.

He was received at the airport by Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, the USSR ambassador in Sanaa, and a representative of the presidential protocol.

Departure Statement

GF021801 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Viktor Maltsev, USSR first deputy foreign minister, left Sanaa today following a 3-day visit to our country. During his visit he held talks with a number of the brother officials on a number of issues of mutual concern.

In a statement to SABA' news agency upon his departure, Viktor Maltsev said that his visit was made on the instructions of the Soviet leadership in order to hold talks with the Yemeni leadership, led by brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. In his statement, he pointed out that during his meetings, he discussed with the brother officials a number of bilateral issues and issues of mutual concern. Concluding his statement, he expressed his happiness for this visit, the first of its kind, and expressed his satisfaction with the development which Sanaa is witnessing. He expressed his admiration of the phenomenons of construction and the unique Yemeni architecture.

He was seen off by brother Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary to the Foreign Ministry, and Anatoliy Filev, USSR ambassador in Sanaa.

SOVIET, YAR ACCORD CONFIRMS SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION

LD312339 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] The first session of the Soviet-Yemeni Standing Joint Government Committee on Economic and Technological Cooperation has ended. During this session an agreement in principle was reached on assisting the YAR in modernizing the Bajil cement factory, the construction on the (Gharib) irrigation dam, and the building of more than 200 km of roads. Rsearch will be carried out on the building of dams in the Sanaa and (Anis) basins.

During the session, high appreciation was expressed for the work of Soviet doctors in the hospitals of Sanaa, Al-Hudaydah, and other Yemeni cities. All this was recorded in the agreement which was signed on the Soviet side by Yevgeniy Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and on the Yemeni side Muhammad al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and minister of development in the YAR.

Here, ladies and gentlemen, is a recording of the signing ceremoney:

[Begin Osadchuk recording in Russian fading to Arabic translation] We ended the first session of the standing joint government committee on economic and technical cooperation between the USSR and the YAR. An important agreement was signed and it confirms the fact that economic cooperation between our two countries is developing successfully and that it has suitable prospects which respond to the interests of our two peoples. We consider this agreement to be a prominent landmark in our bilateral cooperation. The signing of the agreement and the holding of the session reflected the spirit of Soviet-Yemeni relations, the spirit of understanding and (?harmony). [end recording]

Then Muhammad al-'Attar expressed his great appreciation of the agreement which he had signed, and [words indistinct]:

[Begin Al-'Attar recording] [words indistinct] but our relations go back a long time -- years and years, more than half a century.

Our economic and technical relations also go back a long time and they are the best possible relations. But today we have achieved a great and very important [word indistinct] for our two countries. This indicates that the desire of the political leaders, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, and CPSU Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev, wanted to develop these relations, and I am very hopeful and very confident that this is [words indistinct]. Therefore, I am very pleased that during my stay and the stay of the accompanying delegation we were able to agree on many things and we found sincere [words indistinct] [end recording]

AL-'ATTAS PRAISES SOVIET-PDRY RELATIONS

LD011952 Moscow TASS in English 1941 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Aden, February 1 TASS -- TASS correspondent Anatoliy Syomin reports:

A press conference for local and foreign newsmen has been given here by Haydar Abu Bakar al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister of the PDRY [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen], now acting president of the PDRY.

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, he said, will continue its foreign policy course worked out by the Yemen Socialist Party and the government, the course which is based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, goodneighbourliness and development of cooperation with all countries that respect independence and sovereignty of the PDRY and do not interfere in its internal affairs. Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas expressed the striving for the strengthening of relations of the PDRY with the Yemen Arab Republic, other Arab states.

Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas spoke highly of relations between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union. The USSR is a country friendly to us, he said. It renders vast aid to the republic in every sphere. Important economic projects that have been built or are under construction with Soviet assistance serve the national development of South Yemen. Our ties with the Soviet Union are close ties, such as exist among friends, and we shall continue developing them further in the interests of the peoples of our two countries, H. Abu Bakr al-'Attas said.

The South Yemeni leader noted that damage had been caused to the national economy as a result of the recent tragic events and that the efforts of the party and goverment were now aimed at the normalisation of the situation and speedy restoration of the economy.

BRIEFS

SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH SYRIA -- Moscow, January 31 TASS -- The mixed Soviet-Syrian commission on cultural relations held its session in Moscow on January 27-31. The two sides coordinated and signed a plan of cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and Syria in 1986-87. The plan provides for a further development of cooperation between the two countries in the field of science, education, culture, arts, film art, radio, television, health services, tourism, sport, and training of national personnel. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 31 Jan 86 LD]

FIGHTING ERUPTS IN HAITI; CONFLICTING REPORTS SENT

Collapse of Regime Reported

LD311525 Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 31 TASS -- The dictatorial Duvalier regime in Haiti has collapsed. The dictator hastily left the country, a White House spokesman announced today.

'Contradictory' Reports on Situation

LD311857 Moscow TASS in English 1836 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, January 31 TASS -- A White House spokesman has stated with reference to the U.S. Embassy in Haiti that the Duvalier regime has collapsed and that its head fled the country. However, two hours later another spokesman of the administration said that Duvalier, it seemed, was keeping control in the country. Mass action by the working people against the pro-American repressive regime which has been dominating the country for almost 30 years has been gaining in scope in Haiti in recent days. Duvalier, seeking to suppress the protest movement, declared a state of siege this morning. Contradictory reports continue coming in from Port au Prince, the capital of Haiti. According to some of them, Duvalier has fled to Paris. However, his statement was read out over the radio. In the statement Duvalier maintained that he remained in office. It is possible, however, news agencies point out, that the statement had been recorded beforehand.

Situation Remains 'Very Tense'

LD010926 Moscow TASS in English 0913 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Havana, February 1 TASS -- According to reports from Haiti, the situation in that island state in the Caribbean remains very tense. Conflicting reports about dictator Duvalier continue coming from Port-au-Prince, the country's capital. The PRENSA LATINA agency said that over the past 24 hours he twice spoke on national radio declaring that he would not give up the post of "president for life", called the population for tranquility and promised to change his economic policy. An opposition leader said in the PRENSA LATINA interview in Port-au-Prince that the fall of Duvalier was a matter of a few hours. Contrary to the state of siege clamped down by the dictatorship, mass public actions are continuing in all major cities of the country. The demonsrators demand that the dictator immediately resign. The authorities of the Dominican Republic have closed the border with Haiti.

U.S. 'Puppets' Rebel

LD011229 Moscow TASS in English 1207 GMT 1 Jan 86

[Text] Havana, February 1 TASS -- According to scanty reports from Haiti, the situation in that island state in the Caribbean remains tense. The country is being swept with powerful anti-dictatorial actions, which are actually outgrowing into a national uprising against the pro-American Duvalier regime.

Despite the state of siege clamped down by the dictator, clashes are continuing incessantly in the country's capital Port-au-Prince and other cities between demonstrators and secret police units. Barricades are being put up in the districts inhabited by the poor. The international airport is closed. Telephone and telegraph communications with the neighbour countries have been disrupted.

Scared by the vast scope of the popular protest movement, the dictator ordered the police and troops to use firearms to disperse demonstrations. More than ten demonstrators were killed and tens were wounded. The police are carrying out mass arrests. The PRENSA LATINA agency said that over the past 24 hours Duvalier had spoken on national radio twice. He said that he would not resign from the post of "president for life". Yet, as a spokesman for Haitian opposition told a correspondent of the agency, the collapse of the dictatorship is inevitable.

Foreign agencies at the same time stress in their commentaries that they in the USA clearly hope for a palace coup in Haiti under U.S. Embassy control that would make it possible to bring down the momentum of the popular struggle in Haiti, replace the butcher of the Haitian people with a less odious puppet. This would make it possible to preserve for the U.S. monopolies positions of diktat in that country. According to reports from Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Embassy and its proxies among the ruling top crust of the regime held an emergency meeting to discuss the "resignation" of bloody butcher Duvalier and turnover of power to a so-called military-civilian government. Obviously, the nomination of new U.S. spacemen was given a go-ahead by Washington.

As has already been reported, soon after all details of that collusion had been specified in Port-au-Prince, Larry Speaks, White House deputy press secretary was in a hurry to say that Duvalier had fled the country and power had been overtaken by a military-civilian government. Yet, literally a few hours later that statement was officially refuted by the U.S. State Department. The causes of such conflicting and strange at first sight statements by officials of the U.S. foreign policy department are becoming clear. It has turned out that Duvalier's menials responsible for his policy of genocide against the people, promptly realized that in its tactical aims Washington was prepared to "sacrifice" its placemen who have compromised themselves most. Contrary to the "persuasion" of the U.S. Embassy, the puppets rebelled against their bosses and so far refuse to comply with the "advice" of their American patrons.

Security Forces Lack Control

LD030617 Moscow TASS in English 0602 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Havana, February 3 TASS -- At least fifty people have been killed by dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier's security police over the past two days, according to reports from Haiti. More than 120 protesters were wounded by fire-arms. PRENSA LATINA stresses that despite the state of siege operating in Haiti and the curfew now applied to daytime, the regime's repressive forces are unable to establish full control over the situation in the country.

U.S. Plans to Invade Haiti

LD030811 Moscow TASS in English 0718 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Havana, February 3 TASS -- Rene Theodore, general secretary of the Central Committee of the United Party of Haiti Communists, in Havana to attend the 3rd Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, has exposed the intentions of the United States to invade Haiti. In corroborating his claims, Rene Theodore quoted a letter which sets forth the proposal to set up an inter-American invasion force.

The communists and other democratic forces in Haiti, Rene Theodore said, are resolutely opposed to U.S. intervention which is being prepared under the umbrella of the Organization of American States. Its attempts to keep in power the Duvalier regime failing, Washington has decided to get rid of the dictator. In recent days, he said, the United States twice attempted through the Central Intelligence Agency to stage a coup d'etat in Haiti. But both attempts ended in failure.

'Alternative' to Duvalier Prepared

PM021825 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Feb 86 Morning Edition p 4

[A. Cherepanov article under the rubric "Topic of the Day": "Twilight of a Dictatorship. Concerning Events in Haiti"]

[Text] Haiti is on the boil. The report coming from that country are still contradictory. According to some, the dictator Duvalier has fled, according to others he is still in Port-au-Prince. One thing is clear: The place is getting too hot for him.

For an entire week now Haiti, an island state in the Caribbean, has been the scene of one protest demonstration after another against the anti-people ruling clique of the dictator Duvalier. The demonstrations are in fact evolving into a nationwide uprising. Frightened by the scale of the people's protest movement, the regime's ringleader ordered police and troops to use firearms to disperse the demonstrations. More than 10 demonstrators have been killed and dozens have suffered serious injuries. The regime's security forces have started making mass arrests.

The Duvalier family has ruled Haiti with a hard and cruel hand for 29 years. For 29 years Haitians have been living in an atmosphere of terror and violence, of poverty and lawlessness. The list of the dictatorship's crimes is endless: Over 50,000 persons have been held in torture chambers or "lost without trace"; one out of every five of the country's inhabitants has sought refuge agroad to escape repressions; 83 percent of the urban and 94 percent ofthe rural population in Haiti live below the absolute poverity level and at the last stage of physical exhaustion; three-fourths of the population lack the most elementary medical services; and so on and so forth.

This is how the Catholic movement Pax Christi has described the situation: "The life of the overwhelming majority of Haiti's 6 million inhabitants is reminiscent of a horrific nightmare: Peasants are deprive of land and work, infant mortality has reached unprecedented scales, and the population lives under conditions of permanent terror by the 'Tontons-Macoutes' paramilitary police formations."

This situation in Haiti could not have failed to lead to an explosion of popular anger. Haitian communists, for example, consider that the people's struggle against the dictatorship is entering a decisive stage. This is precisely why they have called for the creation of a united front of all democratic forces struggling for the overthrow of the anti-people regime. Opposition to the dictatorship is spreading day by day. Relations between the Duvalier clique and the national intelligentsia and Haiti's influential Catholic church have deteriorated.

The United States is following with manifest anxiety the situation prevailing in Haiti and the Haitian people's mounting oppositoin to the dictatorship. Washington fears the loss of the unlimited political and economic domination which was de facto granted to it by the Duvalier family. The White House is undertaking all sorts of maneuvers with a view to retaining its positions in this Caribbean state. A so-called "legal opposition," consisting of pro-American circles of entrepreneurs and the oligarchy, is being knocked together under the total control of the U.S. Embassy in Haiti. An alternative is thus being prepared in the event that they might yet have to part company with Duvalier.

Heeding the will of his U.S. patrons, the dictator Duvalier has been forced to start talking about "liberalizing" his dictatorial regime. He loudly proclaimed a few days ago that he intended to start the disbandment of the "Tontons-Mocoutes" gangs immediately.

But the demagoguery of the U.S. Administration and the "president for life: can hardly save the thoroughly rotten reactionary regime form retribution for everything it has done. The Haitian people's growing struggle for truly democratic transformations provides the main confirmation of this.

'Serious Blow' to U.S. Policy

LD312108 Moscow TASS in English 2012 GMT 31 Jan 86

["Agony of the Haitian Regime" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, January 31 TASS - TASS commentary Nikolay Chigir writes:

News agencies transmit contradictory reports on the situation in Haiti. Initially, a White House spokesman announced the fall of the Duvalier clan and the flight of the dictator. Then reports came to the effect that Jean-Claude Duvalier is still in Haiti and another White House spokesman claimed that Duvalier seems to retain control in the country. Although it is not known for certain so far who is in power in Haiti at this moment, facts bear out irrefutably that the tyranny of U.S. stooge Duvalier is on the verge of collapse. Driven to the climax of despair, the Haitian people, of whom 90 percent lives in abject poverty, rose to the selfless struggle against the dictatorship, for freedom and democracy. This is a serious blow to the U.S. imperialist policy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is an open secret that the reins of actual government in Haiti were in the hands of Washington and, to be more specific, of the U.S. ambassador in Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti. It was exactly he who shaped both domestic and foreign policy of Haiti. The compliant Duvalier regime perfectly suited the United States. For he passed the country's natural wealth under the control of U.S. monopolies. The United States also views Haiti as an important strategic springboard for the struggle against the national liberation movements and the progressive governments in Caribbean and Central American countries. It is no wonder that the Duvalier disctatorship received from the United States through various channels the most massive aid which amounted, according to Latin American press reports, to 150 million dollars a year.

The fact that Haiti turned under Duvalier into a country of horrors, where murder and torture became daily occurrence, evoked no concern among Washington human rights advocates. The law was in effect in that country, where there are more prisons than schools, that stipulated death penalty for the "communist activity," in other words, for the slightest manifestation of discontent with the regime. The dictatorship physically liquidated more than 50,000 Haitian patriots. But this, to all appearances, corresponded to the plans of Washington which actually aided and abetted the policy of the most ruthless terror and arbitrariness in Haiti.

It is difficult to predict the way the developments in Haiti will proceed and what forces will prevail. The Haitian reaction has by no means been crushed by now and its benefactors from the United States will, sure enough, take all possible measures not to let Haiti out of its hands. They in Washington closely followed and are following everything that takes place in Haiti. It is by no means fortuitous that the first report on the flight of Duvalier came from the White House. Foreign policy observers suppose in this connection that Washington has apparently decided to sacrifice Duvalier so as to stem the further broadening of the popular struggle in Haiti and to install in power in that country the forces that would serve the United States with as much zeal as the Duvalier clan did. This is the reason behind the confusion in the White House when its report on the flight of the dictator seem to be premature.

SOVIET DELEGATION TRAVELS TO CUBA FOR CONGRESS

Solomentsev Sends Off Delegation

LD021915 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by Comrade Ligachev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, left Moscow today [2 February] on an invitation from the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee to participate in the work of the 3d Cuban Communist Party Congress. The delegation includes Comrade Slyunkov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee; Comrade Korolev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, lathe operator at the Urals Ordzhonikidze heavy machine building works; and Comrade Kapto, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Comrade Solomentsev, of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Party Central Committee and Comrades Kruchina and Rakhmanin, members of the CPSU Central Committee.

Delegation Arrives in Cuba

LD030759 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0712 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Havana, 3 Feb. (TASS) -- A CPSU delegation headed by Yegor Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has arrived in Havana at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee to participate in the work of the 3d Cuban Communist Party Congress.

The delegation includes Nikolay Slyunkov, Belrussian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, and Anatoliy Korolev, CPSU Central Committee member and lathe operator at the Sergo Ordzhonikidze Heavy Machine-Building Works in the Urals.

The delegation was met at Havana's Jose Marti Airport by Raul Castro, member of the Politburo and second secretary of the Cuban CP Central Committee, first vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Lionel Soto, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat and Cuba's ambassador to the Soviet Union; and other officials.

In the welcoming party was Aleksandr Kapto, CPSU Central Committee candidate member, USSR ambassador to the Republic of Cuba, who is with the CPSU delegation, and employees from the USSR Embassy and other Soviet institutions in Cuba.